

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama

No. 4413.

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1912.

PRICE
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LITERATURE

The Life of William Robertson Smith.
By John Sutherland Black and George Chrystal. (A. & C. Black.)

Lectures and Essays of William Robertson Smith. Edited by the same. (Same publishers.)

BESIDES a peculiarly interesting and potent personality, Prof. Robertson Smith had a double reputation. He was the hero, or victim, of a famous heresy trial, and he was a brilliant Oriental scholar. The two characters were closely connected, for he was persecuted not for righteousness' sake—his life was blameless, and his faith unquestioned—but for scholarship's. The "Robertson Smith case"—which roused intense excitement in the late seventies, so that, in the words of W. E. Henley's organ *The Scots Observer*, which contained a savage onslaught on the Professor, "all Scotland held him in flattering respect, or still more flattering horror"—seems very remote now, and some readers will be surprised that Dr. Sutherland Black should have filled half the biography with so dreary a subject. The opinions which Robertson Smith published on various points of Biblical criticism were those which had long been accepted in Germany, and are now regarded by the leading Old Testament scholars as mere commonplaces. The only question was how far they could be made to square with the "Confession" of the Scottish Free Church, of which Robertson Smith was an ordained minister, and with his position as Professor of Oriental Languages and Old Testament Exegesis at the University of Aberdeen—a position which bore an obvious relation to the training of candidates for the ministry. The half-hearted verdict of

the General Assembly, which acquitted him on the several counts of alleged heresy, and left him still free to act as a minister and celebrant, but expelled him from his professorship on the ground of the "dangerous tendency" of his teaching, reads like a mediæval record—except that in the Middle Ages he would have been burnt at the stake. We have fortunately for the most part advanced beyond such verdicts, in Scotland as well as elsewhere; but as a matter of history the trial was momentous, for it won for the Free Church, once and for all, the right of free criticism of the Biblical documents. As the authors justly say,

"Prof. Smith's struggle for the freedom of scholarship in the Free Church of Scotland is in their opinion an episode in the history of their country of abiding interest and importance, which must be studied by all who wish to understand either the Scotland of 1843 or the Scotland of 1912."

It drew the dividing line between the old and the new school of Biblical interpretation, and for that reason the elaborate discussion of the controversy rightly holds the foremost place in the biography of the protagonist.

At the same time scholars will be disposed to rejoice at Smith's expulsion from Aberdeen. It took him to Cambridge, and this transplanting was fraught with brilliant results. Had he remained at Aberdeen, he might possibly have continued to be only one among many Biblical critics. His mind was too broad to be satisfied with so narrow an outlet, and his expulsion opened several new paths. 'The Encyclopædia Britannica' (the ninth edition), in which his heretical sins had found him out, welcomed him in an editorial capacity, in which he was associated with Dr. J. S. Black, and though he found the drudgery sometimes a weary burden, there is no doubt that he gained in knowledge and experience as much as he gave in learning and perspicacity. His appointment successively to the Lord Almoner's Chair of Arabic, the University Librarianship (in succession to Henry Bradshaw), and Sir Thomas Adams's Professorship of Arabic at Cambridge, with a Fellowship at Christ's College, gave him the opportunities he needed to develop his powers; and visits to Egypt and Arabia, albeit too brief and limited, helped to focus his insight into Semitic life and sociology, which found expression in his two most notable works—'Kinship and Marriage in Early Arabia' (1885) and 'The Religion of the Semites' (1889)—the latter, however, a "first series," never completed.

Important as his books on the Old Testament, and especially on the Prophets, were, these two volumes show an originality and a power of synthesis altogether out of the common. Their influence upon the author of 'The Golden Bough' is, of course, one of the patent examples of literary fosterage; but the biographers' account of these really original works seems to us inadequate, whilst too much space is allotted

to an uneventful childhood and youth. The life at his father's manse did not greatly differ from many others, and his University career (entered upon at the age of fifteen—he was Professor at twenty-four), with William Minto as rival and contemporary, was spoiled by illness. His letters are undistinguished. His work as assistant in the physical laboratory of Prof. Tait at Edinburgh is more interesting, if only as showing that Smith had the capacity to do original research of high quality in the most diverse departments of knowledge; but it was a *παρεργον* which had no definite relation to the main bent of his career.

Indeed, in spite of much interesting information, the 'Life' fails to give a clear conception of Smith's mind and the permanent significance of his studies. This is not surprising, for his peculiar charm, fully appreciated by all who knew him well, was not such as can be easily described. His warm friendship, singularly unselfish nature, buoyant spirits, and brave endurance of a painful disease which prematurely closed his brilliant career, more than made amends for the pugnacity, contentiousness, and impatience of opposition which somewhat prejudiced superficial observers against him. Dr. Sutherland Black, his most intimate friend, and the one who knew him best, has perhaps found his very friendship an obstacle to unreserved portrayal, in a natural feeling that his friend's heart should not be laid bare to the general public. That Dr. Black has the gift of portraiture is evident from the numerous incisive character-sketches he gives of Smith's Scottish professors and contemporaries, among which his opponents in the celebrated "case" stand out in repellent vigour.

The volume of 'Lectures and Essays,' issued with the biography, calls for brief notice. They are all early, written between the ages of twenty-three and thirty-one (1869–77), with the exception of the two Arabian studies, one of which on 'Animal Worship among Arab Tribes and in the Old Testament' (misprinted 'Animal Tribes in the Old Testament' in the table of contents) was the forerunner of the 'Religion of the Semites.' The theological papers have a considerable biographical value, for they show the slow and gradual growth of Smith's advance to what are called "emancipated" views, and they confirm the biographers' contention that he remained to all intents a believer in the "evangelical" doctrine of his childhood, as he remained a minister of the Free Church, till his death in 1894. All these papers are marked by his characteristically logical method; we may instance that 'On the Work of a Theological Society,' and another on 'The Place of Theology in the Work and Growth of the Church.' The one that will most interest non-theological readers is on 'Poetry in the Old Testament.' But in all the method is argumentative and didactic, rather than poetic or illustrative. One feels that Smith was an acute reasoner, but no artist. It is difficult to be both.

A MODERN EPICUREAN.

'A NIGHT IN THE LUXEMBOURG,' the curious and exotic work of the famous French symbolist, now for the first time translated into English, will perhaps engender an imbroglio of controversy in this island. Our doctrinaires may buckle their armour; our Philistines aggressively tremble for the foundations of society; but the discerning will probably smile indulgently at M. de Gourmont's transparent device of resuscitating a philosophy of life, for many generations a plaything of the more fretful and ennuyé malcontents of letters. The tale is given an ingenious, a deliberately ingenious and romantic setting, as a casket for its suave challenge to theological, moral, and emotional values. In an empty church in the Luxembourg, on a wintry evening, a young journalist is confronted with a reincarnation of Christ or Apollo. He is conducted into an enchanted garden, as Arcadian as the Provence of the *jongleurs*, there to partake of a Virgilian breakfast with the three goddesses who appear before him. Here, in elegant apophthegm, the "Master" expounds the Epicurean philosophy, interspersed between idyllic and sensuous interludes. Towards the close the link with the supernatural is snapped, and the young man is discovered dead in his lodgings, seated before his unfinished manuscript, among evidences of the whilom presence of his sublimated paramour.

The main interest of the book, however, in spite of this *macabre* background against the roses, lies in the dictates and reflections of the stranger. Upon evolution, humanity, progress; upon utilitarian and ascetic morality; and the whole fabric of civilization, as the majority have made it and as the minority would wish it, he turns the rays of a blank nihilism. "I have never," he declares, "desired the reign of equality or that of sanctity. I would rather breathe your flowers than your souls, your women than your intellects." Virtue is happiness, sin only born of the consciousness of it. The atomic theory is airily used to dismiss the significance of the universe as "the product of a series of accidents." The dominion of fatality is supreme. Rebellion is "ugly"; it is the violation of the canons of æsthetic harmony. Mankind is prisoned by the irrevocable laws of chance and destiny. Infinity; the relation of man to the universal; of his personal to his cosmic self—these are but metaphysical abstractions, just as ethics, responsibilities, and philosophies are but "adroit intellectual structures." And so this incorrigibly romantic divinity proceeds in his dialectical subtleties, telling us—under the delightfully impertinent masquerade of unveiling profound discoveries—of the illusion of truth, of the

truth of illusion, and the like. M. de Gourmont may vacillate between the egoism of sensibility and that of rationalism, but we are never for a moment in doubt as to which attracts our argumentative virtuoso of pleasure. Concerning his own kindred and their Pantheon, the deity is elusive enough only to let us peer over the outworks. They apparently cultivate a pose of indifferent superiority more successfully than did the Olympians, who were certainly well tarred with human weaknesses and idiosyncrasies, and they are much less concerned with childish man and mortality. They differ from mankind in no essentials except a more acute capacity for pleasure, more quantitative, it would seem, than qualitative and durable.

It would be churlish to literature, to M. de Gourmont, and to our own entertainment to brandish the cudgel against this soi-disant philosophy of life. To anathematize him as heretic, rebel, and subversive of the cherished convictions either of the few or the many would be not only to snatch at the bait he cunningly dangles before us, but also to give his dissertation the undue prominence of a proselytizing philippic. It would require no penetrating sagacity to undermine this neat little paper edifice of thought. We prefer to regard it as what it is—an extravaganza, an audacious excursus of fancy pieced together with the fertile skill of a consummate artist. When the deified Epicurus blandly refers to his sojourn on Mars "as a resting-place, for a great number of centuries," we gladly respond to the ludicrous and smile in company—we imagine—with the author. He is indeed divertingly careless with his ideas, confounding pagan, mediæval, Renaissance, and modern sentiment, and creating an intellectual gallimaufry with absurd and supercilious catholicity. The atmosphere is that of the garden of Boccaccio, as unreal, fantastic, and remote from the high wind of actuality, though denser and more heavily scented. Through it murmurs that soft undercurrent of perishability to which our early singers gave such luminous artistic expression. M. de Gourmont carries us to no altitudes and offers us no poignant revelations; he is simply the merchant of relaxation, spinning fine conceits and displaying choice wares for our delight. The style is the man, not the speculation or the prophecy, which is the prop of the style.

We feel, indeed, that this style has been forced somewhat harshly into a *mariage de convenance* with matter that is flimsy, academic, and mannered. For that reason it has to undergo Procrustean curtailments of its freedom and energy, and to ally itself with a brother-in-arms only partially congenial to it. This is the more regrettable in that its pellucid and crystal qualities illustrate with peculiar fidelity what is perhaps the finest product of the French literary genius—the masterly exposition of its prose. Its transparent clarity is a more appropriate medium for the spirit than the substance of the

discourse. It throws into salient relief the gentle, persistent irony, the rounded and jewelled self-consciousness, the complacency that is now benevolent and now sinister. Its esoteric fragrance is conveyed with a finesse and precision which make us realize its innocent lucidity as the child of an almost diabolical artfulness. Comparison with Anatole France is inevitable; but, though the wit is as aromatic and as finely tempered, we are not thrilled, as the creator of Sylvestre Bonnard thrills us, by the brushing of the wings of "the Spirit of the Pities," which irradiates his otherwise pitiless exposure of human frailty. M. de Gourmont is more chilly, and no emotional warmth is allowed to flood in and mollify the inexorable hardness of his artistry. The style is decorative, garnished with a thousand graces. Its accomplishments are manifestations of the structural whole. They retain and intensify the unity of impression. Unlike Hugo, M. de Gourmont is no spendthrift of language, and, again, he lacks humanity of thought and spaciousness of imaginative diction. At any rate, if his Epicureanism is but the play of a supple intellect, which is at times perfectly conscious that it is only manoeuvring, we cannot but admire the mould into which it is cast.

Mr. Arthur Ransome's translation is one of the best things he has done. In the truest sense he has captured the quintessential spirit of the book with rare felicity and sensitiveness of expression. His polished, nervous English, ever fastidious for the *mot juste*, has real distinction. We quote an example:—

"Yes, I wish you to be a new Epicurus, and to teach the men of to-day what my friend taught long ago to the Athenians. Apostles have spoken in my name who have succeeded in spreading over the earth a doctrine of despair. They taught the scorn of all that is human, of all that is genial, of all that is luminous. Unfitted for natural pleasures, they sought pleasure in their own misery and in the misery in which they plunged their brothers. They called the earth a valley of tears, but the tears were those whose abundant flow was caused by their own malignity. Boleful to themselves, they were boleful to the men who became the slaves of their sombre dreams. After promising their faithful an eternity of chimerical joys in return for the true and simple joys they stole from them, they took even hope from the heart of man, they imagined hell. Sons of the ancient priests of Baal, they set up in my name the cruel idol of their fathers, and made of me the hideous and prescient creator of those whose destiny was damnation. These monsters, however, did not discourage me, and I sustained by my inspiration every effort of natural wisdom that I saw among all these horrors."

We think, however, that Mr. Ransome considerably over-estimates the force of the discussion, enchanting as it is. M. de Gourmont belongs to the dragon-flies of literature, iridescent but ephemeral.

A Night in the Luxembourg. By Remy de Gourmont. With Preface and Appendix by Arthur Ransome. (Swift & Co.)

TWO IRISH REBEL-PATRIOTS.

WE cannot say that we welcome the republication of Tone's memoirs, for reasons to be given presently, but it is our first duty to criticize the value of the work, and the way in which it has been edited. As regards the latter, we consider that Mr. Barry O'Brien has done his work better than at first sight appears. For the daily notes of Wolfe Tone are full of repetitions, the same arguments being addressed over and over again to the people he met from day to day. From the point of view of the impatient reader, these repetitions should have been cut out. Excision would have made the book far more readable and less tedious. But if the editor had shortened it, a certain quality in it would have been lost, and it would not have been nearly so convincing as it now is. For the artless setting down day by day of what the author said, and what was said to him, by its very monotony and perfect consistency of character, comes to be so persuasive that we cannot believe the harsh judgments which make him an impostor and a villain. This was the opinion of the late Duke of Argyll, who in his 'Irish Nationalists' set him down as a pure Jacobin, bent on upsetting all society, and ready to commit any crime in the process. He did, indeed, when little more than a boy, and desperately poor, offer to Pitt to occupy some South Sea island and worry the Spaniards, and he says his real object was to turn buccaneer, this type being then his delight. But this freak must not be taken seriously. He passed through Trinity College, Dublin, with considerable credit, being not only Auditor and Medallist of the famous Historical Society, but also a scholar of the House. His daily writing shows traces of ample culture. He quotes frequently from the classics and from Shakespeare, and the friends he made in college were highly respectable—George Knox (Lord Northland's son), Whitley Stokes (a Nationalist of high character), &c. It is interesting to add that in the list of scholars elected in 1784, his name appears next above that of William Magee, afterwards Archbishop of Dublin, and grandfather of the Archbishop of our time. But not only had he most respectable friends; he also enjoyed their society, and he speaks with affection of his old college all through his life. Yet that college was then considered the preserve of the ascendancy party. Though there are hints in his confessions that he was not very strict in his conduct during his solitary life in Paris, away from his family (which he had left in America), he was a most affectionate husband and father, always thinking of his beloved

wife and his dear babies. But the key to his life is given in his own words:—

"For my own part, I think it right to mention, that, at this time, the establishment of a Republic [in Ireland] was not [as it was with Napper Tandy] the immediate object before me. My object was to secure the independence of my country under any form of government, to which I was led by the hatred of England, so deeply rooted in my nature, that it was rather an instinct than a principle."

If so, it was not an early instinct, but created by lashing himself, and being lashed, by that turgid eloquence which was the bane of all the Nationalist clubs. If the English Government could have foreseen the future, he might have been secured by a good promotion in early youth, as he was not above valuing wealth and dignity very highly in comparison with ideal objects. When he did embark in politics, he became a most active and dangerous foe, and more than once brought England into very great peril. That was the opinion of the Duke of Wellington, whom the editor quotes.

If we inquire how a man without money or influence could effect such important things in the politics of Europe, we must attribute it to his persuasiveness in urging a deep conviction, and his good fortune in securing so important a man as Hoche, whose death was fatal to his hopes. For the rising Bonaparte, who was very jealous of Hoche, would not take up his ideas, but adopted the far wilder and more hopeless scheme of attacking England, not through Ireland, but through India. It has always been recognized that at this moment Ireland was England's weak spot. The narrative of the various attempts of the French and Dutch to invade it; the failure of these attempts, through the dilatoriness and incompetence of the French War Department, through the miserable state of the French finances, and lastly through the marvellous interference of the elements in favour of England—all this, over which Tone frets and fumes in his diary like a caged lion, is deeply interesting reading. If the French and Dutch could have invaded Ireland during the Mutiny of the Nore, when they were nearly, but not quite ready, it seems possible that Ireland would have been, for a time at least, lost to England. But here the winds again interfered, and it was the thirty-five days of "foul wind" at the Texel which exhausted the patience, the supplies, and finally the discipline of the Dutch armament, and caused the expedition to be abandoned a fortnight before the battle of Camperdown, which Tone wonders at as an unnecessary, and therefore fatal, blunder. He himself had already left the fleet, as the chance of invading Ireland had passed away.

If we consider Tone's estimate of the probable success of a landing, we find that more than once he speaks with contempt of the fighting qualities of the South-Western Irish, and thinks the only good chance is to make for the North-East, and begin the campaign some-

where near Belfast. For here the sturdy Presbyterians were the real strength of the so-called "United Irish Society," and these men could be easily drilled into a dangerous fighting force. This conclusion, though that of a man who had thought it out with anxious care, must be modified in the light of subsequent history. Tone rightly considered that the South-Western Irish would never make an impromptu army to help a sudden invader, but it is only fair to add that, with careful drill and strict discipline, Munster and Connaught regiments have done as brilliant service as any in the British Army.

It is more curious that Tone should have wholly overlooked another part of Ireland, which proved even to him that there were fine rebels to be found outside Ulster. The men of South-East Wexford, especially from the baronies of Bargy and Forth, east of the Slaney, showed in 1798 that with extempore leaders—most of them Roman Catholic priests—they could behave with signal valour. Had Humbert's little expedition landed here, instead of at far west Killala, there would have been a different story to tell. The point of likeness between North-East Ulster and South-East Leinster, in both of which the people were brave and sturdy, is also most suggestive. In both these tracts the body of the population was not Irish, but either Scotch or English, with some admixture, perhaps, of Northmen. For the Roman Catholic peasantry in Bargy and Forth, who prospered all through the eighteenth century under the penal laws, are known to be an early English settlement, that did not tolerate an Irish population among them. The English fleet was, of course, more likely to check any attempt to land on the east coast of Ireland, but in those days it seems that it was a mere chance whether the guarding ships would find the invaders. Most of the attempts made by the French were not balked by meeting a hostile fleet.

We come now to the second book before us. It is a cheap reprint of part of the memoirs of Miles Byrne, published in 1907 in two thick volumes by Mr. Stephen Gwynn, when it was duly noticed in these columns (Sept. 7, p. 264). The present extract concerning the author's adventures in Ireland in 1798, and his escape to France, might appear to be very similar to the diary of Tone. But the likeness is superficial, so far as the method of the two books is concerned.

"It is to-day [says Tone] upwards of two months since I made a memorandum, which is downright scandalous. For many important circumstances have happened in that time. The only good in my journals is that they are written at the moment, and represent things exactly as they strike me, whereas, when I write after the interval of some time—"

Exactly so, and here is the vital difference. Byrne's recollections were set down years after the events, when he had become a distinguished soldier, and no doubt a

Autobiography of Theobald Wolfe Tone, 1763-1798. Edited, with an Introduction, by R. Barry O'Brien. 2 vols. (Dublin, Maunsell & Co.)

Some Notes of an Irish Exile of 1798: being Chapters from the Memoirs of Miles Byrne relating to Ireland. (Same publishers.)

very popular talker in Paris, and delighted his friends with the account of his early adventures. But his reminiscences were not accurate—such things never are, as Goethe pointed out long ago. The imagination interferes, and colours most of the facts; the memory fails, and omits others; the result is that the temper and feelings of the diarist control them, and he produces an untrustworthy picture. There is plenty of evidence of these omissions and commissions in Byrne's memoirs. He sets down at length everything discreditable to the English; he glozes over the crimes of his own friends. In only one feature the two books are perfectly agreed. They are both animated with a deadly hatred against England, and regard absolute separation from her as the only chance of making Ireland great and free.

We will not argue whether this view is justified or not, reasonable or unreasonable, but surely the present moment is the most inopportune for such publications as these. They are likely to call forth reprints of equally prejudiced loyalist accounts of the rebellion of 1798 by way of reply, and cannot but tend to exacerbate the feelings of mutual dislike which we had hoped recent legislation was beginning to allay. In the larger edition of Miles Byrne Mr. Gwynn tells us he was encouraged to publish it by the recommendation of Mr. John Dillon, who thinks it one of the best books on Ireland. We think it one of the very worst, unless it be the object of politicians to encourage sourness and rancour, instead of mutual toleration, and deep contrition at the faults of the past on both sides. We believe there are but few Irish politicians who will not agree with us in regarding the promoters of ill-feeling as the active enemies of their country.

FORERUNNERS OF THE ENGLISH NOVEL.

MISS SENIOR has given us, under an inappropriate title, an interesting selection of the popular stories of late-Elizabethan times—the true forerunners of the English novel. They have long been familiar to readers through the reprints of Thoms, and the best of them, 'Thomas of Reading,' is included in Mr. Mann's admirable edition of Deloney's 'Works,' recently published by the Clarendon Press. The editor's Introduction and notes are interesting in themselves, as showing the frame of mind in which she undertook her task, rather than likely to be of use to the general reader. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the publication of the edition referred to so nearly synchronizes with her own, since a comparison of editorial treatment, which she would be the last to desire, is inevitable.

Some Old English Worthies. Edited, with Notes and Introduction, by Dorothy Senior. (Swift & Co.)

Elizabethan literature was confined to two main outlets for its expression—poetry and the drama: the period of English prose had not yet arrived. This is, of course, not to say that no great prose existed, or that much of what was written had not great qualities; but the normal rhythm of our prose was not so established in the popular ear as to create a standard for those who had something to say, but no rule as to how to say it. Writers of some education, as is their wont, seized on the non-essential and more obvious characteristics of style in the fashionable works of the time, and served our language by making them first ridiculous, and then impossible. Writers less well equipped were forced to put more reliance on their own resources, supplemented by the popular educator of the day—the stage.

'Thomas of Reading' is a good example of the book produced by men of this class. It is composed in two quite disparate veins—the realistic and the romantic. In the former the author is writing from his own experience, going to popular tradition for his characters, to a well-known everyday life for his action and dialogue, and the result is excellent—so excellent that one of our most distinguished critics is able to mention the last hours of Master Cole beside Macbeth. His style is simple, direct, and clear; his old wives' chatter admirably heard and reported. But, as soon as the story escapes from the narrow field of Deloney's personal experience and becomes romantic, he is forced to rely on the theatre, and the result is pure bombast. Miss Senior, for example, seems to think highly of the Margaret episodes; to our mind, the sole enduring one among them is that of her engagement as a servant to Gray of Gloucester. M. Jusserand's account of the English stage and its action on even so great a mind as that of Shakespeare is still fresh in the recollection of the student of literature; its effect on that of a simple soul like Deloney was incomparably greater and more destructive, in style as well as in matter: indeed, of all the tales in this book it may be said that the story-telling is contaminated by the stage.

While we know who wrote 'Thomas of Reading,' we can form no probable guess even at the authors of 'George a Green,' 'Roger Bacon,' and 'Friar Rush,' the other tales reprinted here. They are, no doubt, mainly strings of anecdotes strung together on a very slender framework; of ballad tradition in the case of 'George a Green'; of University memories quickened into life by the enthusiasm of Dr. Dee in that of 'The Famous History of Friar Bacon'; and of German chapbooks in that of 'Friar Rush.' The most interesting of them is undoubtedly the Bacon story, and even after we have removed from it the Faust contaminations and the folk-tale anecdotes, a certain substratum is left testifying to the existence of a popular tradition of Bacon. We know that, contrary to the ordinary notion, a considerable amount of atten-

tion was paid to Bacon's works in Oxford right up to half a century before the Reformation, and we should be grateful to any one who would make a serious study of this legend with a view to determining its sources and relation to Bacon himself.

In the meantime Miss Senior has given us a charming book, well designed and well printed, though somewhat carelessly "read"—one that may be confidently recommended to the ordinary reader.

Modern Democracy: a Study in Tendencies. By Brougham Villiers. (Fisher Unwin.)

As we said in our short notice of Mr. Villiers's book, its chief utility will be in consolidating and giving articulate form to the thought underlying the progressive spirit of the age. In order to crystallize tendencies into one word, our author terms the new policy "Guarantism," by which we understand him to mean the insuring to each member of society (with a small *s*) the possibility of living, in contradistinction to mere existence. This policy, as he says, pervades every stratum of society, and is not the preserve of any particular "ism," though it is the driving force of many; rather is it evidence of the growing and democratic will of the people.

We are not sure that Mr. Villiers sufficiently appreciates the need for extremists, and a more exact knowledge of statistics relating to the poor of our large towns would enable him to strengthen his case; but his warning that, until the minimum level of subsistence has been raised, we must expect the individual to be a great deal keener on what affects his own class, however small it may be, than on schemes which affect the whole body politic, is well timed. Incidentally, our author sums up for us the reason why Campbell-Bannerman never became a great man; he had intense sympathy, but he certainly was not in his latter years "a great thinker"—or, we should be inclined to add, while admitting his other great qualities, at any other time.

Mr. Villiers does good service in pointing out in his chapter on 'The Single Tax' that the profits from commerce are now higher than from the land, *ergo* that the idle shareholder is in a better position than the idle landlord, though we think he might have given more attention to one contributory cause—the abnormal cost of distribution, one of the great and rapidly increasing evils of our modern system, or rather lack of it. He does, however, strongly point out the possibilities inherent in the decentralizing power of electricity, and advocates the immediate socializing of this force, so that it may be made truly beneficent before its utility is circumscribed by private ownership. We fear that he shows lack of knowledge in his assertion as to the uniform level of prices. They are no more level than the rate of wages, though in the former case the inequality is far more to the advantage of the poor. Another matter in

which we think Mr. Villiers wrong is in stating that

"the typical Liberal or Socialist who gets into Parliament becomes more and more conformed to the likeness of his master, the average British working man."

The atmosphere of what was once called the best club in London will want changing before that can be true. Mr. Villiers's statement on p. 131 that "the man who enters politics will end—a politician" is more to the point.

He puts very fairly, too, what case there is for those who are always clamouring for more work for the people without specifying the sort of work, and who advocate as the first essential the circulation of money rather than the right spending of it. Here are his words:—

"If there be any slackening in the demand for an anti-social thing, the people employed in producing it will immediately suffer. There will be unemployment and poverty, all the weight of which will fall upon them; while even if the money saved be spent in some more useful ways, other people and not they will get the benefit of it. Their interests, their personal and immediate interests at least, are bound up with the evil thing; the success of their lives depends upon its growth and prosperity. When their daily bread is threatened, it is no use talking platitudes to them about the 'interest of one being the interests of all.' They see clearly how a change will affect them, only dimly the good it may do to the world as a whole. They know very well that if their trade is ruined, they and those they love will be ruined also; and the very strength of the Guarantist instinct within them, the instinct on which we must normally depend for the advance of democracy itself, will compel them to resist."

Such sentimental pleading is hard to eradicate, but people do not deserve to be considered educated until they realize that fault lies in using even the minimum of energy wastefully, when the maximum used to the best advantage will not free the country of evil for many a long year to come.

We cannot agree with Mr. Villiers that Government departments, when slack, should be allowed to compete with private enterprise; we prefer the idea that such a period should be the opportunity of the Development Commissioners. Perhaps the fact that some of his statements are so bald as to be misleading may be accounted for by the attempt to deal with such an enormous subject in one portable volume. For instance, on p. 229 he says that,

"taking the country as a whole, there are far fewer women than men eligible for membership of Trade Unions; this means that a vast majority of the [Labour] party are men."

Some day the shortsighted policy of early trade-unionism with regard to women will have to meet the fierce light of the examining publicist.

Many readers may become somewhat depressed whilst reading through Mr. Villiers's two hundred odd pages of plain common-sense, and may even suspect him of lack of enthusiasm, but those who per-

severe to the end will be rewarded by his chapter on 'Nation-Building.' Here the idealist, the enthusiast, is allowed to encourage visions of the future with its international co-operation, and the fulfilment of the idea, now dimly entering men's minds, that if a divine purpose be granted in the making of our world, then surely it was made for man—not man for it.

Our differences with the author are those of opinion. Of actual mistakes we have not detected any, though here and there the author is hardly sufficiently up to date—for instance, in giving prominence to *The Morning Leader*, and omitting all mention of new Labour dailies.

Coptic Biblical Texts in the Dialect of Upper Egypt. Edited by E. A. Wallis Budge. (British Museum.)

EGYPT is the land of literary discoveries *par excellence*. Besides the mummies, the monumental inscriptions, the pyramids, and the stelæ, which it possesses in such rich abundance, that ancient land holds embedded in its soil, or secreted in its antique buildings, large quantities of priceless papyri capable of throwing floods of light on topics in which humanity will never cease to be deeply interested. At one time a new papyrus of the Book of the Dead comes to light; at another an ancient mathematical work is unrolled before our eyes; on another occasion, again, compositions like the Aristotelian treatise on the Constitution of Athens or the poems of Bacchylides are added to our literary treasures; and a few years ago, quite suddenly, Jewish Aramaic papyri of the fifth century B.C. were unearthed at Elephantine in Upper Egypt. Such finds make one wonder what further things may yet be in store for us in the near or distant future. One of the several not unreasonable expectations that may be entertained is that some day a pre-Massoretic form of the Old Testament text will be found, such as was used by the Septuagint translators at Alexandria. If that should ever happen, Bible students all over the world will be presented with a great sensation in this literary field.

The find with which we have to deal on the present occasion is neither sensational nor epoch-making, in the usual sense of those terms, but it is highly interesting and instructive all the same. The ripest and best expert knowledge available has been brought to bear on the question of the date that is to be assigned to the papyrus codex from which the Coptic version of Deuteronomy, the Book of Jonah, and the Acts of the Apostles are here reproduced, and as a result we have the emphatic declaration that it cannot be later than the middle of the fourth century, and that it is, therefore, not only "the oldest known copy of any translation of any considerable portion of the Greek Bible," but also "probably as early as

any copy now in existence of any substantial part of the Bible."

The importance of a Biblical MS. which in point of date takes rank with the three great uncial codices known as the Vatican, the Sinaitic, and the Alexandrine can hardly be over-estimated; but there is even more in it than may appear at first sight. The codex bears valuable and decisive testimony to the high antiquity of the Coptic version of the Holy Scriptures, and it also strongly supports the general accuracy of certain traditions regarding the history of Christianity in Egypt, which a number of critics have been much inclined to doubt. On the former point Dr. Kenyon, whose contribution to the present volume will be specially referred to presently, writes as follows:—

"Since the character of the mistakes in this Codex is such as to preclude the possibility of its being an original translation, it is fair to argue that the version itself must, in all probability, have come into existence before the end of the third century; while it may, of course, be yet older."

On the question of the authenticity of certain traditions, Dr. Budge, with equal emphasis, declares that

"the evidence afforded by our papyrus Codex tends to confirm early monastic traditions concerning the spread of Christianity in Egypt,"

so that there is, to take the most salient instances,

"good reason for believing that Anthony did hear the Scriptures read in his village church in his native tongue, and that many of the earliest monks in the deserts of Nitria, the Red Sea, and Upper Egypt, learned to repeat the Psalms and whole Books of the Bible by heart from Coptic and not from Greek manuscripts."

For a detailed description of the codex we must refer the reader to the printed volume itself, which also offers a most useful aid to appreciation in the shape of excellent photographic reproductions of several pages of the MS., including the Coptic note in a Greek cursive hand at the end of the Acts of the Apostles, which has been a decisive factor in the determination of date. Our own task must rather be to furnish an account, together with an appraisal, of the work accomplished by the learned editor and those who have given him their active, scholarly support.

After giving an exhaustive external description of the codex, with a clear indication of the extent to which the Book of Deuteronomy, the Book of Jonah, and the Acts of the Apostles are preserved in it, Dr. Budge proceeds to a comparison of this form of the Coptic version with other forms of it, as well as with the respective Greek portions of the Bible on which it is based. The many textual facts here accumulated will no doubt be scanned with great care and attention. On a number of critical details other scholars may find themselves at variance with Dr. Budge, but there can hardly be a doubt as to the correctness of the general results of his investigation.

The comparison of "the text of Deuteronomy as it appears in this papyrus Codex with such portions as are extant of the versions which were current between the seventh and eleventh centuries" has led to the conclusion "that when the papyrus was written, the Coptic text of Deuteronomy had already been fixed." Regarding the Book of Jonah, Dr. Budge finds that "the Coptic text agrees generally with the received text," though "there are many small variants which agree with readings given by A and Q" of Dr. Swete's list. Blunders of various kinds are numerous in the Acts of the Apostles; and, as all the three Biblical Books are supposed to have been copied by the same scribe, it is rather difficult to explain why the Acts should be so much more faulty than the two other Books. Dr. Budge seems to waver between attributing the mistakes to the archetype from which the copy was made and ascribing them to the ignorance and carelessness of the scribe.

Dr. Budge's general conclusions are authoritatively enforced by the precision and cogency of Dr. Kenyon's remarks in Part VII. of the Introduction. In addition to the sentence already quoted from this section, it is necessary to state that in Dr. Kenyon's view the collation of the sixty select passages from the Acts of the Apostles set out in Prof. Sanday's 'Appendices ad Novum Testamentum Stephanicum,' with the Coptic version contained in the papyrus codex, tends to confirm

"the evidence of the later Sahidic MSS., on which we have hitherto been dependent, and to establish still further the character of this version as one of the best authorities for the text of the New Testament."

As an object-lesson of the care with which the literary treasures acquired by the British Museum are treated, the contribution to this volume by Mr. Bell of the MSS. Department should be mentioned. Even the cover of the important codex was made to yield some interesting little possessions, which Mr. Bell describes for us with great clearness. A small vellum fragment apparently of the fourth century, the handwriting being "not dissimilar to the Vaticanus," is shown to contain Theodotus's Greek version of Daniel i. 17-18; and there are besides fifteen fragmentary Greek papyri in cursive script of the third to the fourth century, thirteen of these being accounts, and the remaining two contracts.

Besides the contents of the papyrus codex, which formed the chief *raison d'être* of this publication, the volume includes the Apocalypse of St. John in Coptic, printed from a paper MS. of the British Museum, written in a fine bold hand of the twelfth century. A facsimile of a page of this MS. is shown on plate x., the nine other plates representing different pages of the papyrus codex. The treatment of this part of the Coptic version is analogous to that of the Books taken from the papyrus codex. Dr. Budge gives us first a collation with the Greek text printed in Prof. Suter's

'Novum Testamentum Græce,' and he then compares extracts from the texts of the Apocalypse published by Goussen, Ciasca, and Delaporte from Sahidic MSS. of various dates with the Coptic of the present volume.

In the last part of the Introduction the learned editor supplies an historical sketch under the heading 'Christianity in Egypt and the Coptic Version of the Old and New Testaments.' We have already quoted from this part a sentence relative to the evidence in confirmation of early monastic tradition afforded by the papyrus codex. But Dr. Budge aims at going beyond this. He begins his survey with "Apollon the Alexandrian Jew," who "had knowledge of the baptism of John," and touches upon all the successive important data that intervened between Apollon and the date of the papyrus codex. In referring to the tradition, current among the Copts, "that the first Patriarch of their Church was Ananias, who was appointed by St. Mark, who is said to have visited Alexandria about the year A.D. 64," Dr. Budge says: "That this tradition is substantially true there is no good reason for doubting." But it is only right to remark that such a question can hardly be decided in this manner. The mere fact that neither Clement nor Origen says anything about the supposed sojourn and work of St. Mark at Alexandria is, indeed, sufficient to make one pause before venturing upon an affirmative answer.

Of the printing of the volume, it is enough to say that it was done at the Oxford University Press, and we believe that the photographic reproductions were also prepared under the expert care of Mr. Horace Hart.

SHELLEY AND BYRON AUTOGRAPHS.

AUTOGRAPH collectors will have a rare Byron and Shelley chance next Friday, when Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge will offer at auction a well-known letter from Shelley to Byron and an equally well-known one relating to it from Byron to Moore. They are the letters of December, 1821, about the proposed burning of a sacrilegious priest described by Shelley as his "fellow serpent," a phrase explained by Byron as a "buffoonery" of his own, founded on the words "my aunt the renowned snake" used by Goethe in his 'Faust' to describe the serpent who tempted Eve. In his letter to Moore, Byron appears to have spelt the demon's name "Mephistofeles," not "Mephistofilus" as in Byron's 'Letters and Journals' (1901, v. 496), or "Mephistopholes" as in Medwin's 'Life of Shelley' (ii. 230). But the point for the autograph collector is that in this "lot," in which three—nay four—poets of renown are concerned, the holograph letters of Shelley and Byron are on one and the same piece of paper, Byron having written and signed his note to Moore on the back of Shelley's to his lordship. A note on this composite MS., signed "C. W. M.," says "not Aunt but Cousin." The word used by Goethe is *Muhme*: surely Byron was justified in choosing *aunt* from among the dictionary equivalents of that word.

In the same sale there is a long letter to Jane Clairmont, produced jointly by Shelley and his second wife, with a great deal of hard talk about Byron in it. The first sheet was written by Mary after consultation with Shelley; the second is wholly in Shelley's writing; and the poet appears to have taken a fresh sheet and gone on with a sentence, left unfinished by his wife because there was no more room on her sheet.

Another Byron MS. in the same sale, of very high interest as a relic, is a quarto sheet containing in his writing that passage of 'Don Juan' attacking Wellington read to Hobhouse at Pisa in September, 1822. It had been intended for the opening of the third Canto, but was ultimately reserved for the ninth, all but two stanzas which relate to Juan and Haidee, and with a slight alteration were made to serve alone as the opening of Canto III. The variations from the text of the Wellington passage, printed, it seems, from a transcript thought to have been made by the Countess Guiccioli, are not very striking; whereas the poet's aplomb in dealing with the situation created by the temporary withdrawal of that passage from Canto III. is distinctly characteristic. After finishing with the Duke, he had written:—

Now to my Epic—We left Juan sleeping, &c.;

but when he decided to let Canto III. begin with the stanza of which that was the first line, he altered it to

Hail, Muse! et cetera.—We left Juan sleeping—

which is richer metrically and much more racy.

THE EARLY CHRONICLES OF SCOTLAND.

Monrieth, May 20, 1912.

YOUR reviewer has dealt very leniently with my sketch of the early Scottish chronicles. I have not the book at hand to refer to, but I feel that I must have expressed myself very ambiguously in referring to David Macpherson, the editor of Wyntoun. In stating that he "was the son of a tailor in Edinburgh," so far from suggesting any disparagement, I intended it as a tribute to his attainments in the teeth of what must have been circumstances unpropitious to independent study. I regret that your reviewer should have imported the term "base descent" into relation with the parentage of Macpherson, which it never entered into my head to regard as less honourable than that of the great Orientalist, Dr. Alexander Murray, son of the shepherd of Dunkitterick in my native Galloway hills.

HERBERT MAXWELL.

BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS.

ON Thursday and Friday in last week Messrs. Sotheby held a sale of books and manuscripts which included the library of the late Sir J. D. Hooker, &c., the most important lots being the following: A Collection of over 2,000 pamphlets on the French Revolution, 50l. Dresser, History of the Birds of Europe, 9 vols., 1871-96, 52l. Apuleius Platonius, Herbarium, printed at Rome, c. 1484-8, 55l. Milton, Arcopagitica, 1644, 21l. Joannes de Cuba, Tractatus de Herbis, &c., 1491, 35l. Sir W. J. Hooker and others, Icones Plantarum, 30 vols., 1837-1911, 67l. Edwards's Botanical Register, 33 vols., 1815-47, 26l. Sir J. D. Hooker, Flora Antarctica, 2 vols., 1844-7; Cryptogamic Botany, 1845; Flora Nova-Zelandiae, 2 vols., 1853-1855; and Flora Tasmaniae, 2 vols., 1860, 123l.; Flora Boreali-Americana, 2 vols., 1840, 20l. The total of the sale was 1,488l. 14s.

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

[Notice in these columns does not preclude longer review.]

Theology.

Bardsley (Rev. J. U. N.), THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND HER ENDOWMENTS, 2/ net. Skeffington

Six sermons with special reference to the Welsh Disendowment Bill, preached in the Lancaster Parish Church, January and February, 1912. They form an excellent statement of the position of the Church of England in regard to endowments, and should do good service in correcting the widely prevailing misconceptions on the subject. The author's attitude towards the Reformation, and his doctrinal statements, will here and there provoke dissent on the part of those members of the English Church who, if they cannot submit to the Papacy, yet hold by the full Catholic tradition.

Case (Shirley Jackson), THE HISTORICITY OF JESUS, A CRITICISM OF THE CONTENTION THAT JESUS NEVER LIVED, A STATEMENT OF THE EVIDENCE FOR HIS EXISTENCE, AN ESTIMATE OF HIS RELATION TO CHRISTIANITY, 6/ net.

Illinois, University of Chicago; London, Cambridge University Press

The author has set himself the task of defending the belief in the existence of Jesus from the point of view of "liberal" theology, i.e., without recourse to the supernatural. We could wish the first part of the book had been somewhat longer and fuller. No line of attack has been omitted, nor is there failure to indicate the line of reply; two or three points have, indeed, been adequately discussed, and we are glad to acknowledge that the numerous foot-notes show the reader where to go for verification of what has been told him. Still, the effect of the critical portion of the work is, on the whole, that of something more hurried and slight than it need have been. The statement of the evidence for the traditional view seems to us much better and more forcibly done.

Ferguson (G. A.), HOW A MODERN ATHEIST FOUND GOD. Lindsey Press

A not very successful expression of the personal experience of one of whose sincerity there is as little doubt as of the repellent egotism which colours the "story" of his "almost unique experience."

Isaacs (Abram S.), WHAT IS JUDAISM? A SURVEY OF JEWISH LIFE, THOUGHT, AND ACHIEVEMENT, 5/ net.

Putnam's

A collection of a number of essays contributed within recent years to various periodicals, presenting along different lines the message and meaning of the Jew's religion and history. What the author has to say in vindication of Jewish character and services he says in a laudably dispassionate manner, but the disconnected origin of the various chapters is apparent throughout, frequent repetition of similar phases occurring. This "unpretentious treatment" of a great subject will doubtless serve to arouse interest in it; but, unfortunately, Prof. Isaacs supplies no hint as to where students may find further elaboration of such fascinating essays as his 'Talmud in History' or 'The Story of the Synagogue.'

Montefiore (C. G.), Hetherington (Rev. A. J.), and Others, THE UNITY OF FAITH, edited by Geoffrey Rhodes, 3/6 net.

Kegan Paul

A series of essays by writers holding different forms of the religious belief current in the West. The idea is to discover what

element they all have in common, and this, as might have been foreseen, reduces itself to the affirmation of the existence of God, with the conviction that it is not by reasoning, but by a holy life, that man can attain to Him. The most interesting papers are those by Father Hetherington on the Roman Church, and Mr. Grubb on the 'Friends.'

Poetry.

Anderson (J. Redwood), THE MASK, 4/ net.

Oxford, Thornton; London, Simpkin & Marshall

These productions of Mr. Anderson's are in some cases positively unreadable, owing to their wilful ugliness, poor wording, and undue length. If his 'Hymenæal Ode' had been purified by a rush of real passion, we might pardon its lack of reticence.

Buckeridge (E. G.), SPINDRIFT, 3/6 net.

Stock

The author of 'Spindrift' has imagination and a perception of the beauty of nature, together with a sense of rhythm. He gives us the impression of being facile, but this facility will, unless he is severe on himself, tend to become his chief danger. Some of the verse is sentimental, but scattered through the volume are several good lines, and the latter part of 'When We are Old' is simple and sincere. It is a pity that in more than one instance Mr. Buckeridge has spoilt his poem by putting in too many verses.

De la Mare (Walter), THE LISTENERS, AND OTHER POEMS. Constable

In metrical skill Mr. De la Mare is scarcely surpassed, or indeed equalled, by any of the younger English poets. He can turn from one metrical form to another with confidence and success, and shows rightness and certitude in his rhythm and diction. But there is something much more than prosodical excellence in his poetry. He is not a philosopher like Mr. Abercrombie. He is not a reformer like Mr. Masfield. Nor, on the other hand, is he one who sings with the bird-like spontaneity of Mr. Davies. But there is in his poetry much of the sweetness of song; in its musical quality it is direct, concrete, sensuous. But purely spontaneous, artless poetry has limitations which withhold from the poet the widest exercise of his gift. Mr. De la Mare could not achieve his variety and wonderful modulations of metre if poetry had not been for him a technical study as well as an inspiration. It is impossible not to recognize the subtle influence of Rossetti—both in matter and form—and in a more obvious way that of Coleridge. He gets something of that wistfulness, that shy spirituality, which Rossetti loved, something also of the mingled grotesqueness and sweetness of Coleridge.

Mr. De la Mare is a romanticist. He loves the strange, the grotesque, the far-away; magic and witchcraft and sorcery are a delight to him; he can make imaginative play with the goblins of childhood; and all nature is haunted for him with the strange and the beautiful.

He has a fine faculty—which readers of 'The Mulla-Mulgars' will remember—of combining playfulness with grim fantasy, as we have it here in 'Never-to-be.' In 'The Witch' he produces the eerie effect of the supernatural:—

Owl and Newt and Nightjar:
They take their shapes and creep,
Silent as churchyard lichen,
While she squats asleep.

All of those dead were stirring:
Each unto each did call.
"A Witch, a Witch is sleeping
Under the churchyard wall;

A Witch, a Witch is sleeping...."
The shrillness ebbed away;
And up the way-worn moon clomb bright,
Hard on the track of day.

In the poem 'Arabia,' in 'Where,' in a score of the briefest and lightest of lyrical pieces, he achieves exquisite musical effects. He has an effective simplicity:—

A very old woman
Lives in yon house—
The squeak of the cricket,
The stir of the mouse,
Are all she knows
Of the earth and us.

At present his poetry is all lightness and fancifulness. But he has charm, and a beauty of form rare enough to-day, combined with a definite vision.

Henderland (George), THE HEART OF BRUCE.

Paisley, Gardner

This story of the Bruce in alternately rhymed decasyllables is a model of neat and correct versification, of measured and subdued rhythm. But the whole poem is dull and monotonous. It dozes through nearly sixty pages in somnolent grace, and lacks the spice of life and imagination.

Herbert (A. P.), PLAY HOURS WITH PEGASUS, 1/ net.

Oxford, Blackwell

Mr. Herbert's light verse is of the conventional University type. Its effect depends chiefly on neat metrical arrangements, unusual rhymes, topical allusions, and a blend of colloquialism and "literary language." With deftness above the ordinary, he sings of his Bath, of Airmen, of "Toggers," of Compulsory Greek, and so on, in such a way as to raise continual faint smiles, but never a peal of laughter.

Kelleher (D. L.), POEMS 12 A PENNY.

Liverpool, 'The Liverpool Courier.'

The author makes an anthology of his own verse, which with sublime self-confidence and in large lettering he calls 'The Fine Melody of my Feelings.' We can only dimly surmise the quality of the rejected pieces.

Lounsbury (G. Constant), POEMS OF REVOLT, AND SATAN UNBOUND, 3/6 net.

Gay & Hancock

The writer of 'Poems of Revolt' is a slave to his desire to make rhymes, and has an unfortunate habit of selecting unpoetic and ugly words. The theme of the play 'Satan Unbound' is no less a one than the divinity of discontent; but, owing to a lack either of technical accomplishment or critical perception, Mr. Lounsbury never rises to the height of his argument, and is sometimes grotesque.

Meyrat (Émile Louis), EURYDICÆAN, A POEM.

Boudry, Switzerland, Baillo

M. Meyrat scours heaven and earth for metaphors, analogies, and similes, flinging them on to his pages without apparent consideration as to how and where they fall. Consequently, he is more often than not unintelligible. These four lines are typical of his catholic receptivity of words:—

Wrath sister thy claw
Integrant must skein
Wan white lilies, and four
Roses of pain.

We soon tire of his verbal gymnastics.

Ragg (Frederick W.), LAST POST AND REVEILLE, 1/ net.

St. Catherine Press

There is no poetry though a quantity of bad argument in these helligerent verses. The author rages in tumid polysyllables, expending much windy energy upon criticism of the Parliament Bill. A modicum of sobriety would have been a wholesome corrective to his oburgations.

Seranus, IN NORTHERN SKIES, AND OTHER POEMS.

An exiguous booklet of polished but derivative verse. "Seranus" is best in her sonnets, where severe restriction of length and form prevents her from lapsing into diffuseness. Some feeling for landscape is displayed.

Stead (Robert J. C.), SONGS OF THE PRAIRIE, 1/6 net.

This little collection of songs is among the many books of modern verse which seem to us negligible. The author lacks taste and charm.

Warner (Irene E. Toye), IN LIGHT AND DARKNESS—HOPE! 1/6 net.

The best that can be said of these poems is that they breathe a spirit of altruism and sincerity. Aesthetically considered, they are not striking and are defaced by mawkishness and banalities.

Williams (Harold), THE BALLAD OF TWO GREAT CITIES, AND OTHER POEMS, 1/ net.

These verses give evidence of thoughtfulness, care, and modesty. There are no raw and garish effects, nor is the author a light and idle dilettante. He writes in elegiac strain, and no radiance flashes through his grey monotonies. His studied, pensive lines are well worth perusal. We feel, however, that his thought hardly runs naturally into metrical forms. The sense of rhythm is often painfully halting. But there is merit and talent in the volume.

Bibliography.**Aberdeen University Library, BULLETIN, April.****O'Donoghue (D. J.), THE POETS OF IRELAND: A BIOGRAPHICAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF IRISH WRITERS OF ENGLISH VERSE, 21/ net.**

The author in 1892 began publishing his 'Dictionary' in parts, which he got printed and sold himself. They succeeded, in fact, without the usual aids of advertisement. The good foundation then laid has received so many additions and revisions that the book before us may claim to be a new one.

It is an admirable record, giving brief but sufficient biographical details, and notes about prose as well as poetry, and showing wide research concerning pieces of pseudonymous or disputed authorship. Thus there is a poem signed "Speranza" which was not by Lady Wilde. Prof. Tyrrell figures as a translator of 'The Achæans' and a writer in *Kottabos*, which he edited for some time. It might be added that he started the magazine himself in 1869; also that he and two friends published some translations in 1869 under the title of 'Hesperidum Susurri,' and that he edited the first collection ever made of 'Dublin Translations into Greek and Latin Verse,' our copy of which is dated 1882. Most of the renderings had, however, already appeared in the publications mentioned above.

Philosophy.**Kirkham (Stanton Davis), OUTDOOR PHILOSOPHY, THE MEDITATIONS OF A NATURALIST, 5/ net.**

"The vulgarity of publicity and the tedium of an over-organized society" are the spur which has driven Mr. Kirkham to seek the calm of trout-streams and the pleasures of a meditative life. Emerson is his ancestor, and Thoreau his spiritual father, with here and there a strain of the Whit-

manesque. He strives after no paradox, nor abhors the platitude, but expounds his doctrine of "self-trust and the worth of the individual" in dignified prose which soothes the reader without raising him to the higher planes of exaltation. The writing is too easy, and the author too content with his main thesis to pursue it down to details, so we are left with a feeling of dissatisfaction.

History and Biography.**Bagshawe (Frederic G.), THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ENGLAND, 2 vols., 21/ net.**

This is not a book founded upon original research, nor does it lay claim to such pretensions. It is an account of "the private, as opposed to the public, history of the several kings and queens, of their children, and of such of their immediate descendants or relatives as have played any part in English History or have lived in England." Thus, while drawing upon accessible documents and histories, it avoids trenching upon the political province of the regular historian.

Croly (Herbert), MARCUS ALONZO HANNA: HIS LIFE AND WORK, 10/6 net.

This biography of 480 closely printed pages is not well or lucidly written, and, like its subject, badly needs some central guiding principle. Out of it emerges at last the image of a man whose lack of intellectual grasp, wide views, or high ideals was obscured by his pleasant sociability and humane kindness. Fundamentally, perhaps, what Hanna chiefly suffered from was a defective education. Had his early training chanced to bring him under the sway of noble traditions and clear thoughts, his energy, vitality, instinct of domination, and happy endowment of being "hail fellow well met" with all his kind might have made him a good influence and, possibly, a great leader in American politics. As things were, his fine business talent and his aptitude for organization were directed to no high ends. Like most semi-educated men, he believed the interests of his own class to be those of the community. As an employer his genial accessibility and good heart made him infinitely better than his public reputation, and it is probable that he never deliberately did a wrong to any fellow-creature. But the political power of men essentially provincial in mind is always dangerous; and the effect of this laudatory life is to convince the reader that, in high places, men like Marcus Alonzo Hanna are bad citizens.

Livingstone (R. W.), THE GREEK GENIUS AND ITS MEANING TO US, 6/ net.

An excellent exposition for the general reader by one of the younger race of Oxford scholars. Chapters are devoted to the salient qualities Beauty, Freedom, Directness, Humanism—with Pindar and Herodotus as types—Sanity and Many-sidedness, Plato and other exceptions to the tendencies just mentioned, and 'The Fifth Century and After.' A brief Epilogue deals with the "modernity" of Greek literature. The book is decidedly attractive.

Masson (Flora), THE BRONTËS, 6d. net.

This volume of the People's Books is not by any means a brilliant presentation of the lives and atmosphere of the three sisters, but it is informed with much delicacy and intimacy of treatment. Miss Masson is much indebted to Mrs. Gaskell's biography, but is not subservient to it. She writes agreeably and with strong

sympathy, introducing many quiet pictures of the domestic environment at Haworth. The judgment is full of discernment, and, as an introduction to a family circle in which there was so much humanity and tragedy, no more fitting book could be recommended.

Mathew (Rev. Arnold H.), THE LIFE AND TIMES OF RODRIGO BORGIA, POPE ALEXANDER VI., 16/ net.

The author in this book returns to the subject and epoch he has already treated somewhat voluminously in former volumes. Unfortunately, our confidence in him as an historian of repute has been impaired by certain discoveries relating to the origins of some of his work. The illustrations are interesting.

People's Books: ENGLAND IN THE MIDDLE AGES, by Elizabeth O'Neill, 6d. net.

An excellent account of the spirit and general trend of the history of England in the Middle Ages compressed into some 90 pages. There are a few minor inaccuracies of statement—e.g., that the University of Oxford "came into being" in 1214—which do not affect its suitability for the use it was designed to fulfil. The essential features of Mediæval England are clearly traced and set forth.

Geography and Travel.**Handbook to Belgium, including the Ardennes and Luxemburg, 2/6 net.**

This sixth edition is revised and enlarged. It appears admirably adapted for tourists bent on seeing Belgium in a hurry, although even they might appreciate a slightly more incisive phraseology.

Walter (L. Edna), THE FASCINATION OF HOLLAND, 1/6 net.

This is no mere guide-book, although entirely descriptive. It does not profess to contain anything like a complete picture of Holland, giving, for instance, but the barest notice of Rotterdam. But the author has been successful in conveying in a few pages much of the charm of Dutch towns and scenery. A prospective visitor to Holland might well select the little volume instead of the ordinary guide-book.

Sociology.**Addams (Jane), A NEW CONSCIENCE AND AN ANCIENT EVIL, 4/6 net.**

In its presentation of facts connected with the system of commercialized vice no more convincing, sane, startling, yet optimistic volume is likely to reach the public than this. Miss Addams has studied the outward phenomena of the subject, searched for their inner meaning, and expressed her conclusions in incisive terms which reveal the clear head and warm heart of one whose passion for social justice is typical of the best men and women of our day.

Her facts are drawn from American sources, and particularly from information received as an official connected with the Juvenile Protection Association of Chicago. In England we are spared the flagrant connexion that exists in the States between the legal control of commercialized vice and the functions of the police, but we are unfortunately without that public opinion which, in all those States in which women are enfranchised, has raised the age of consent to 18 years. As an example of Miss Addams's sane optimism we quote her reflection that "in the midst of a freedom such as has never been accorded to young

women in the history of the world, under an economic pressure grinding down upon the working girl at the very age when she most wistfully desires to be taken care of, it is necessary to organize a widespread commercial enterprise in order to procure a sufficient number of girls for the white slave market." It would seem to show that the virtue of women is holding its own in that slow-growing civilization which ever demands more self-control on the part of the individual.

Bremner (C. S.), DIVORCE AND MORALITY, with Preface by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Frank Palmer

The Spencerian dictum that "absolute morality is the regulation of conduct in such a way that pain shall not be inflicted" bears so little relation to the law of divorce obtaining in England that it is small wonder if its anomalies give birth to a copious journalistic output. The author's is an historical study of matrimonial regulations in different countries and at different periods. Inexactitude and clumsiness of expression disfigure it, but so long as ministers are to be found "unaware that the divorce law of 1857 presses unequally on the sexes"—the present writer recently met a similarly ignorant archdeacon of the Church of England—any honest attempt to lighten the darkness must be welcomed.

Political Economy.

Johnson (George), FOREIGN EXCHANGE IN ACCOUNTS, 4/ net. Wilson

A practical guide for dealing with some of the intricacies of foreign currencies, especially those connected with the South American exchanges.

Education.

Montessori Method (The): SCIENTIFIC PEDAGOGY AS APPLIED TO CHILD EDUCATION IN "THE CHILDREN'S HOUSES," with Additions and Revisions by the Author, translated by Anne E. George, with an Introduction by Prof. Henry W. Holmes, 7/6 net. Heinemann

Dr. Montessori's work is, by this translation, made accessible to readers in this country who were unable to study it in the original or in the foreign versions that have already been made. Its appearance is an important educational event.

Philology.

Benton (P. Askell), NOTES ON SOME LANGUAGES OF THE WESTERN SUDAN, including Twenty-Four Unpublished Vocabularies of Barth, Extracts from Correspondence regarding Richardson's and Barth's Expeditions, and a Few Hausa Riddles and Proverbs, 7/6 net. Frowde

An exceptionally complete linguistic study, stocked with philological, grammatical, and miscellaneous information. The vocabularies and correspondence are collected from the British Museum and the archives of the Royal Geographical Society. The Hausa riddles and proverbs are a notable feature.

Commentary (A) on Herodotus, with Introduction and Appendixes, by W. W. How and J. Wells, 2 vols. (Books I.-IV. and V.-IX.), 7/6 net each.

Oxford, Clarendon Press

A book like this needs careful examination, but is difficult to review except by generalities. We find no great novelties in it, but a very careful compilation of facts and of the views of scholars upon disputed points. Indeed, the compilation is, from some points of view, too careful: it obviously meets the purpose of those who are content to take others' opinions rather than to form their

own. The numbered paragraphs of the Introduction, with its emphasized headings, point the same way; and if any are a little more lazy than others, they will find in §13 a neat summary of everything they want to know about the composition of Herodotus's history. The point is, that the student need not have exercised any judgment at all, yet he may produce on paper an answer to satisfy the examiner by learning a dozen lines of the Introduction.

When we have said this, we have said almost all that we wish to say in the way of criticism. Given the point of view, the whole thing is thoroughly done—everything is carefully considered, difficulties met, historical questions elucidated, ethnology, geography, antiquities, grammar—nothing omitted. Longer essays are given in the appendixes. Here is all the information about Herodotus that the heart can wish. It is an extremely useful book to the student who has read his text and wants to fill in the details accurately—wants to know, for instance, that large families are commended in the Zend Avesta, and many another truth that he might otherwise miss. He will close the book with a new respect for Herodotus, and thank him that he has managed to convey so much information to the modern world without boring it.

Forty (The) Martyrs of the Sinai Desert and the Story of Eulogios, from a Palestinian Syriac and Arabic Palimpsest, transcribed by Agnes Smith Lewis, 7/6 net.

Cambridge University Press

No. IX. of *Horæ Semiticae*. The interest of these narratives is primarily linguistic, as affording an example of the Palestinian-Syriac dialect, which, apart from Biblical documents, is slenderly represented in the writings that have come down to us. The upper script, which is Arabic, is to be assigned to the tenth century; the under script, which contains an allusion to the death of Justinus I., 527 A.D., to a date not earlier than the seventh century. Though it cannot be claimed that either story is a work of literature, each—in its Oriental simplicity of outlook—has considerable charm, to which Dr. Lewis's translation does full justice. She gives us, besides Introduction, translation, and text, a glossary, a list of emendanda referring to No. VIII. of these *Horæ Semiticae*, and three illustrations, one that of a moth which she found pressed between the leaves of vellum, where perhaps it had lain 1,000 years.

Homer, ILIAD, Books XV. and XVI., translated by E. H. Blakeney, 3/6 Bell

Follows the style of rendering already used in Books I.-XII. by the translator, and made familiar by Mr. Andrew Lang's classical translations. Mr. Blakeney seems to us, however, more archaic, and in his zeal for poetical phraseology overdoes the third person singular in "-eth." The notes, critical and literary, are a valuable feature, and just the thing to interest readers. The paper-covered volume belongs to Bell's Classical Translations, which represent a much-needed advance on the canine fidelity of Bohn.

Journal of English Studies (The), Vol. I. No. 1, 1/ net. Horace Marshall

We welcome the establishment of a journal devoted to the teaching and study of English. Support is chiefly expected from teachers of English in primary and secondary schools, and they will find here suggestive papers on 'Oral Composition in Schools' and 'Shakespeare in School,' a subject also fruitfully discussed in the section of 'Teachers in Council.'

Articles of a literary as well as a pedagogic character are wisely included, and the present number includes a paper on 'Current Opinion' of considerable interest, another on 'Bacon as Writer,' and a third on 'Some Obstacles to Spelling Reform.' We hope that the Journal will take an early opportunity of examining newspaper English, which has so vast an influence to-day, and explaining its merits or demerits as a vehicle for thought and expression.

Thornton (R. H.), AN AMERICAN GLOSSARY, 2 vols, 30/ net. Francis & Co.

The sub-title of these volumes is "An Attempt to illustrate Certain Americanisms upon Historical Principles," and the feature which makes them of exceptional value is the admirable wealth of citations, 14,000 in number. These will enable writers and readers to verify or correct many vague beliefs and ideas. Mr. Thornton, a well-known correspondent of *Notes and Queries*, deserves our warm thanks for a work of much learning and industry, which cannot fail to be of permanent value.

School-Books.

Contes de Voltaire, edited by H. W. Preston, 2/ Oxford, Clarendon Press

The suggestive Preface of this book claims for the study of modern languages more than the utilitarian results sought by teachers on the new method. The author's insistence on translation as a method of culture and literary training is in every way commendable. A high standard is set from the beginning to challenge the powers of the pupil by putting before him well-chosen selections from the best authors, rather than to entice his sympathy with easy and amusing literature. The *Contes* are well chosen and are complete in themselves, and the volume has useful historical and literary notes. Altogether it is a model of what a text should be.

History Questions selected from Papers set at Civil Service Examinations, reprinted by Permission of H.M. Stationery Office, and edited by A. Percival Newton, 1/ Bell

A collection apparently designed for the use of "crammers," and subdivided into six periods, with a general heading for European history.

Fiction.

Ashes of Incense, 6/ Mills & Boon

It is refreshing to find originality if only in the treatment of old situations. The chief figure in this book is a woman whose wifely existence is mainly made tolerable by her unconscionable spirit of mischief, which feeds on itself until she has ended her mad career by compassing her own murder. Her awakening to the knowledge that her life has been one long outrage, and that the subtlety at which she has been aiming lies in being natural in an age impregnated by hypocrisy and false standards, is well conceived.

Caine (William), SAVE US FROM OUR FRIENDS! 6/ Greening

In his own original way this writer makes his characters live for us. At a villa in a little French watering-place they chatter together in the most natural manner for a day or two. When the match-making hostess's four guests have managed, in spite of her, to shuffle themselves into a position to drink to their married happiness, this, the slightest of sketches, comes to an end—and we are sorry.

Callwell (Col. C. E.), SERVICE YARNS AND MEMORIES, 6/ Blackwood

A collection of short stories and personal reminiscences dealing with the lighter side of Army life in war and peace. The author's style is discursive and diffuse, but the book is of a diverting nature, although frequent technical allusions may prove somewhat mystifying to the civilian.

Many of the stories have previously appeared in *Blackwood*, *The Cornhill*, and other magazines.

Curle (Richard), SHADOWS OUT OF THE CROWD, 6/ Swift

These short stories, many of which have already appeared as "middles" in the weekly press, maintain a respectable level of achievement.

Evans (George), THE CHILD OF HIS ADOPTION, 6/ Herbert & Daniel

Mr. George Evans shows promise of becoming a good novelist, but he should think more of construction and selection. Originality and invention he has, though the invention flags a little towards the latter part of the story; but he has not that instinct of form that enables an author to write without plan; and if he is ever to attain distinction, he must attentively study composition—not in the sense of the school curriculum, but in that of the architect or the painter.

Fisher (B. M.), THE PLAYER, 6/ Drane

Boys reading this book will fail to recognize many types portrayed in it because of their doubtful existence. But this very fact may result in interesting them in a school-story which to one of their elders appears distastefully to miss the child's point of view.

Grier (Sydney C.), THE ADVANCED-GUARD, 1/ net. Blackwood

New edition.

Maartens (Maarten), EVE, 6/ Constable.

Against a background of Dutch stolidity and virtue and the petty interests and occupations of village life, the Melissants—Eve's father and mother—stand out like exotics in a farmyard, and exert an influence out of all seeming proportion to their subsidiary position. "Close your eyes on the ugly side, and it isn't there," they say; but, when the first of their children leaves the nest so aptly named Sans Souci, the changed atmosphere to which her Adam takes her is crushing beyond all her powers of resistance, and a breach is opened through which a crimson passion steals into her pale Paradise. Its coming and her purgatory constitute the story—both in style and matter one to enjoy.

Macgrath (Harold), THE CARPET FROM BAGDAD, 6/ Gay & Hancock

George Percival Algernon Jones, of the Oriental Rug and Carpet Company, is an interesting hero in spite of his name. When the story opens he is feeling depressed because with all his travelling he has never met an adventure to touch his heart, his pocket, or his limbs. Then arrive the rogue and the carpet together, and what follows gives Percival Algernon the opportunity to discover of what stuff he is made. He falls in love with the innocent daughter of a smart woman smuggler and thief; they and the rogue are kidnapped together by the Arab guardian of the sacred carpet, and all suffer many things in the desert. The final scene, in which the thieves are caught at their work, which involves the meeting of mother and daughter, is excellent. There are some dull pages, but on the whole the writing is bright and easy to read, and the plot is skilfully unfolded to its happy ending.

Onions (Oliver), WIDDERSHINS, 2/ net. Secker

This powerful and remarkable collection of short stories was first published not eighteen months ago, and this is the third edition. A supplement to them is 'The Cigarette Case.' Their art and naturalism are of an unusual quality. We reviewed 'Widdershins' favourably in *The Athenæum* of March 11, 1911.

Pemberton (Max), WAR AND THE WOMAN, 6/ Cassell

Dominating the fortunes of this story there are two financial magnates. One believes that war can only be killed by trade, and is striving for the federation of Europe, with no commercial barriers between the several countries; the other, "the new Krupp," desires peace also, but considers it his business to prepare the nations for war. Neither of these missionaries attains much. There descends upon England a winter of unparalleled severity. The imagination of journalists places invading armies upon a frozen channel; as a fact, however, what the country has to fear is the consequence of war without its actuality. The Steel King corners the wheat market, and the shipping trade is paralyzed by a strike. "The woman" had long before invited him to become a Vice-President of her International Arbitration League. When he saves the country by bidding his wheat ships sail for Europe, she marries him, now sharing his belief that, if peace is to be won for humanity, it will be by the brains and money of its leaders.

Powers (Capt. T. J.), THE GARDEN OF THE SUN. Gay & Hancock

A story of military life in the Philippines which belongs to the "kiss me yet again—again, and yet again" order of fiction, riots in picturesque slang, and shows that weakening of the moral fibre which climate and environment can and does sometimes effect.

Shedd (George C.), THE INCORRIGIBLE DUKANE, 6/ Stanley Paul

The incorrigible Dukane is a young man whose self-confidence and aplomb in all circumstances are extraordinary. He is the son of an American engineering magnate, and his disinclination for serious employment is viewed with scant sympathy by his austere parent, who decrees that he shall either work or starve. The story, which describes him working as a navvy of unknown identity in one of his father's construction camps is breezily told, and the interest is skilfully maintained. There are several illustrations by Mr. Stanley Wood.

Symons (Beryl), PRINCE AND PRIEST, 6/ Stanley Paul

This is a picturesque and spirited story centring round Simon de Montfort's "crusade" in Languedoc. Our sympathies are, naturally, engaged on the side of the persecuted Provençals, who, however, are not transformed into stainless saints and martyrs. The author has made a careful study of her period: leper-houses, Courts of Love, and ecclesiastical anathemas play an effective part in the action. The love-interest is developed from the author's *motif* of the betrothed bride and her attendant knight, but the result is less disastrous than with *Tristram and Lancelot*.

Wason (Robert Alexander), HAPPY HAWKINS, 6/ Grant Richards

Like the cowboys of fiction generally, Happy Hawkins is endowed with a turn for dry humour, a rough exterior, and a heart of gold, dominated by an ennobling,

though in this case hopeless passion. Its object is an equally familiar figure, the boy-like heroine who develops into the truest of true women, and finds the reward of merit in an alliance with the disguised heir to an English earldom. The story, written throughout in dialect, includes some curious adventures, but does not add much to our knowledge of men and things "out West."

General.

Halifax County Borough, Bankfield Museum

Notes: No. 11, HAND CARD-MAKING, by H. Ling Roth, 1d.; and No. 12, LOCAL PREHISTORIC IMPLEMENTS, Loan Exhibition, May 11-June 6, 1912, by Hugh P. Kendall and H. Ling Roth, 6d. The Museum

A careful record of hand card-making, and another of local prehistoric implements, the latter including a bibliography. There are numerous diagrams.

People's Books: HOME RULE, by L. G. Redmond-Howard, with a Preface by Robert Harcourt, 6d. net. Jack

The nephew of Mr. John Redmond attempts here a wide survey in a restricted space, and some of his chapters (notably the historical ones) are necessarily sketchy. The volume is so frankly a propagandist pamphlet that it seems rather out of place in the series; but as such it is forcible and lively. One of Mr. Redmond-Howard's remarks conjures up a pleasing picture. "I defy Sir Edward Carson himself," says he, "to raise a theological controversy about an egg."

Pamphlets.

Hutchinson (John), THE SONNETS OF "SHAKESPEARE": A NEW VIEW, 6d. Robert Banks & Son

Reprinted from 'Baconiana.' The view is certainly original. Mr. Hutchinson believes that the author of the Sonnets is addressing himself—"the better part of me," as Sonnet 39 puts it. The Dark Lady is the "worse" part of his nature. The references to offspring, marriage, &c., are to be taken as referring to intellectual creations. The *Dæmon* of Socrates is mentioned in support of this theory, but here we have to believe in two separate individualities, a man and a woman, invented "for the purpose of self-communing." The suggestion strikes us as distinctly odd and bizarre, and is not further commended by the idea that Bacon was inspired by Hilliard's portrait of himself to write the sonnets.

London County Council, INDICATION OF HOUSES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IN LONDON, Part XXXVI.; and THE HORNIMAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY, FOREST HILL, S.E.: A HANDBOOK TO THE MARINE AQUARIA, Second Edition, 1d. each.

Some Memories of the Row, 6d. net. Partridge

Tweedie (Mrs. Alec), EUGENICS.

Permanent detention and segregation of all who are classified as feeble-minded! From all quarters comes this cry—the first article in the social reformer's creed. Every book, pamphlet, or article which furthers this end is an intrinsic good, but we could wish that more enthusiasts would take the Fabian tracts as models of exact writing. We should like to know how "trade unions prevent" prisoners being taught much that is useful. The article is reprinted from *The Fortnightly Review* for May.

FOREIGN.

History and Biography.

Bratli (Charles), PHILIPPE II., ROI D'ESPAGNE, ÉTUDE SUR SA VIE ET SON CARACTÈRE, nouvelle Édition, avec une Préface du Comte Baguenault de Puchesse. Paris, Champion

There has long been an opening for a book which should present the results of modern research on Philip II. It was the fault of historians of the last generation to see in Philip either an implacable despot or a fanatical monk. Both these illusions M. Bratli, in his conscientious study, in some way dispels. The book is not a history of the reign, and wisely confines itself to a broad treatment of the personality of Philip himself. Since the discovery in 1884 by Gachard of the private correspondence of Philip much has been done to rehabilitate his character, both as a man and a sovereign. It is interesting to read M. Bratli's contention that Philip, neither bigot nor fanatic, is an expression of the same tendency towards mysticism which produced in his century personalities like Louis Ponce de Léon and Louis of Granada. Certainly in one respect Philip showed himself intellectually superior to his age, for according to Bermudez de Castro he was in no degree superstitious. The murder of Don Carlos is justified by M. Bratli on the ground that Philip feared lest a turn in the wheel of fortune should place the degenerate on the throne, and that national interests demanded Don Carlos's death. While much is done in the book to show the irresolution and pessimism of Philip, we venture to think that sufficient stress has not been laid on his pettifogging instincts which in themselves proved a bar to effective sovereignty. Neither can we concur with M. Bratli in his conclusion that in giving Spain religious unity at all costs Philip strengthened the forces of the nation.

Chéradame (André), LA CRISE FRANÇAISE, 3fr. 50. Paris, Plon-Nourrit

Politics in France since the Dreyfus case have become complex and difficult to follow for the average English reader unacquainted with the inner history of Cabinets. With the downfall of M. Caillaux, inexplicable for a time to the mass of the French people, the climax has been attained. M. Chéradame gives a lucid and impartial statement of the causes which have led to the present crisis, and the threatened breakdown of *Parlementarisme*. His book is a valuable summary of the important facts which have created the present social, moral, and military disorganization in France to-day. Thanks to an admirable system of marginal insets, the reader is at a glance able to inform himself as to the details of the crisis, its causes, effects, and the proposed solutions. The relative strength of France and Germany in a future war is carefully considered, and there is added a study of our own resources and the possibilities of English intervention. In his judgments on English politics M. Chéradame is not always sure.

Damas (Comte Roger de), MÉMOIRES : RUSSIE, VALMY ET ARMÉE DE CONDÉ, NAPLES (1787-1806), 7fr. 50. Paris, Plon-Nourrit

The keen attention which is to-day devoted to the Revolutionary and Napoleonic period could hardly fail to overlook the memoirs of a character so chivalrous and picturesque as the Count de Damas. These memoirs, published for the first time, give a vivid picture of the closing years of the *ancien régime* and the society of the *émigrés* in Germany and Naples. Beginning his

career in the army of Russia in 1787, subsequently an officer in the armies of Artois and Condé, and finally in the service of the Bourbons in Naples, the Count was, during his short, but adventurous and brilliant career, a shrewd and attentive observer of men and events. The memoirs, sincere and piquant, are a real contribution to the study of the epoch, and are carefully annotated by M. Jacques Rambaud.

Mermeix (M.), CHRONIQUE DE L'AN 1911, 3fr. 50. Paris, Grasset

M. Mermeix has written an instructive history of 1911. The major part of the narrative deals with the Morocco crisis, which is set forth with an abundance of clearly analyzed detail. The attitude throughout is independent and impartial. Especially illuminating is the author's treatment of the historic conference of Kissingen. The causes of the rupture between M. de Selves and M. Caillaux are given, and M. Mermeix claims to have had access to the papers of the two secret missions in May and July. A chapter on social life and a brief survey of the present population of France, based on the new census, are added.

Münz (Sigmund), VON BISMARCK BIS BÜLOW, 3m. Berlin, Stilke

This is a series of sketches journalistic alike in style and in choice of matter, but pleasant enough to read and in many points instructive. The first group is concerned with Bismarck himself; the second with some half-dozen of the men who stood nearest to him and worked with him; the third with the private life and character of Prince von Bülow and his wife. To the English reader the most interesting pages are those dealing with Bismarck's views on social questions and his attitude towards England. Herr Münz takes occasion, when on this latter topic, to emphasize the existence in Germany of friendly feeling towards us, and to express a just indignation at the irresponsible utterances of third-rate journalism, which would have us take the "Anglophobe" views of a small section of the population for the mind of the whole German people.

Ussel (Vicente Jean d'), ÉTUDES SUR L'ANNÉE 1813 : L'INTERVENTION DE L'AUTRICHE (Décembre, 1812 - Mai, 1813), 7fr. 50. Paris, Plon-Nourrit

The present work comes as a complement to the Vicomte d'Ussel's recent monograph on the 'Defection of Prussia' in 1813. The book has considerable historical interest, since for the first time an exhaustive survey has been made of the archives of Paris and Vienna, and, further, the obscure and vacillating diplomacy of Austria is placed in a clear light. Care and precision are the dominating note of the method, and thanks to the author's severe and attentive analysis we are able to form a reasoned opinion on the consequences of the Imperial marriage and the illusions which Napoleon himself entertained.

Geography and Travel.

Reymont (Ladislas-Stanislas), L'APOSTOLAT DU KNOUT EN POLOGNE : NOTES DE VOYAGE AU PAYS DE CHELM, traduites du polonais avec l'autorisation de l'auteur par Paul Cazin, 3fr. 50. Paris, Perrin

Not long since the *Revue de Paris* characterized M. Reymont as the most typical of modern Polish authors. This translation places him for the first time within easy reach of those interested in the question of Polish nationality. It is a sincere and moving echo of the modern political and religious drama of the Slavonic world. M. Reymont

traces with considerable power, to which is added at times real eloquence, the heroic struggle of the Polish peasantry against Russian Orthodoxy. The story takes us across the country-side of Podlachia, where each village is in a state of mutinous subordination, and where many victims have suffered in the national cause. As a faithful picture of Polish life, and an historical document, this book has equal claims on the sympathy and attention of the reader.

Education.

Byroniana und Anderes aus dem Englischen Seminar in Erlangen. Erlangen, Mencke

A tribute to German keenness concerning Byron. Various readings in 'Manfred' are elaborately discussed; there are notes on additions to 'Don Juan' and some unpublished letters of Byron in the British Museum and in a publisher's catalogue; and the whole concludes with the Catalogue of Byroniana in the library of the Seminar, which offers exceptional opportunities for study. Several of the items noted are not in the British Museum.

Fiction.

Bois (Albert du), WATERLOO (BELGES OU FRANÇAIS ?), 3fr. 50. Paris, Lemerre

'Waterloo' is a novel with a purpose, and has a long historical introduction in favour of the contention that the Walloon element in Belgium forms in reality part of the French nation, and remains separated only owing to the attitude of European Powers. M. du Bois is an outright Francophile, and the depth of feeling which is shown is a further indication of the intensity of the internecine religious and linguistic struggle to-day between Flemish and Walloons in Belgium. The story is well told, and the interest in the action carefully sustained, though it is scarcely possible to share the somewhat sanguine attitude of the author.

Daniel-Lesueur, AU TOURNANT DES JOURS (GILLES DE CLAIROEUR), 3fr. 50. Paris, Plon-Nourrit

This is a mediocre novel. The theme, interesting at first sight, shows evident signs of haste in its development. Gilles de Claireur, a prolific writer of popular feuilletons, takes upon herself the task of bringing up her niece, and showers upon her adopted child the frustrated tenderness of an old maid. The castle in the air dissolves when her niece finally abandons her, leaving her nothing in life but a vista of future drudgery. The author writes with dangerous facility, and relies too much on mere description for atmosphere.

General.

Mercur de France, 1f. 25 net.

Paris, 26, Rue de Condé.

The current number of this encyclopædic review opens with an article by M. Pierre-Paul Plon on Jean Jacques Rousseau, the bicentenary of whose birth is to be celebrated next month. It is surprising, in view of the countless works which the life of Rousseau has inspired, to hear that there have remained till now in the Bibliothèque Nationale letters hitherto unpublished which throw light on the strange man whose writings prepared the way for the French Revolution.

A poem by M. Catulle Mendès is followed by a lengthy appreciation of Joseph Conrad and other articles. The reviews include a mass of works in every department of art, literature, and science, besides 'Questions militaires et maritimes,' and letters from England, Italy, &c.

The *Mercur* may be recommended as an admirable antidote to insularity in the realm of letters.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS.

- MAY** *Theology*
31 Witnesses to the Historicity of Jesus, by Prof. Arthur Drews, translated by Joseph McCabe, 6/ net. Watts
- Poetry and Drama.*
30 Plays and Players in Modern Italy, by Addison McLeod, 7/6 net. Smith & Elder
- JUNE** *Philosophy.*
Essays in Radical Empiricism, 4/6 net. Longmans
- MAY** *History and Biography.*
28 Herbert Kynaston, a Short Memoir, with Selections from his Occasional Writings, by the Rev. E. D. Stone, 3/6 net. Macmillan
30 Recollections of a Great Lady, by Madame de Boigne, 10/6 net. Heinemann
- JUNE**
The Annual Register for 1911, 18/ net. Longmans
- MAY** *Geography and Travel.*
28 The Journal of a Sporting Nomad, by J. T. Studley, 12/6 net. Lane
31 Pygmies and Papuans: the Stone Age To-day in Dutch New Guinea, by A. F. R. Wollaston, 15/ net. Smith & Elder
- JUNE** *Political Economy.*
1 Political Economy, by Charles Gide, Authorized Translation by C. H. M. Archibald, 8/6 net. Harrap
- School-Books.*
1 Alternative Extracts for Composition in French for Middle and Senior Classes, compiled and edited by J. E. Mansion, with Vocabulary, 1/6 net. Harrap
1 Das Nibelungenlied, by Dr. Vilmar, edited, with Introduction, Notes, Exercises, and Vocabulary, by E. Hugelshofer, 1/6 net. Harrap
1 Extraits des Auteurs Français du Dix-neuvième Siècle à l'Usage des Classes Supérieures, edited by J. E. Mansion, with Notes, 2/ net. Harrap
1 In Georgian Times, by Edith L. Elias, 1/6; Prize Edition, 2/6 net. Harrap
- MAY** *Science.*
31 The Darkness, the Dawn, and the Day, by J. C. Thomas, paper, 6d. net; cloth, 1/ net. Watts
- JUNE**
The Energy System of Matter, by James Weir, 6/ net. Longmans
- MAY** *Fiction.*
28 The Last Resort, by F. Prevost Battersby, 6/ net. Lane
- General.*
28 A Tragedy in Stone, by Lord Redesdale, 7/6 net. Lane

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINES.

In the June *Blackwood* Mr. Arthur Page writes on 'Church Establishment.' Under the title 'A Norse Queen's Pleasure Yacht,' Mr. Arthur G. Jayne, son of the Bishop of Chester, describes the priceless collection of ancient carved furniture and *objets d'art* recovered from the Viking ship excavated a few years ago near Christiania. There is a further instalment of 'In Quest of a Cure,' and a paper giving an account of the revolt of the republican troops at Nanking and the sacking of the city. The number also contains 'British Mercenaries in Venezuela'; two short stories, 'Sanderson's Venus,' by Mr. St. John Lucas, and 'Some Rockets, "Mother," and Private Riley,' by "Ole Luk-Oie"; the "Musings without Method"; and the continuation of Sir A. T. Quiller-Couch's story 'Hocken and Hunken: a Tale of Troy.'

Harper's Magazine will contain 'London by the Sea,' by Harrison Rhodes; 'Transgression,' a poem, and 'The Stolen Dream,' a story, both by Richard Le Gallienne; 'The Silver Pencil,' by Arthur Sherburne Hardy; 'Life is an Echo,' a poem by George Harris, jun.; 'Some Unsolved Problems in Science,' by Robert Kennedy Duncan; 'Mrs. Kilborn's Sister,' by Fannie Heaslip Lea; 'The Dark,' a poem by Edith M. Thomas; 'The Pitcher of Romance,' by Richard Washburn Child; the continuation of 'The Street called Straight'; 'The Heart's Desire,' by Grace Ellery Channing; 'Your United States,' Third Paper by Arnold Bennett; 'They also Serve,' a poem by Mildred Howells; 'The Planet Venus and its Problems,' by William H. Pickering; 'The Call,' a poem by Alan Sullivan; 'Song,' by Ellen Glasgow; 'Mark Twain, Eighth Paper,' by Albert Bigelow Paine; 'Long Pants,' by James Oppenheim; 'A Little Song of Love and Death,' by Louise Collier Wilcox; 'The Great Queen Isabella,' by Mildred Stapley; and 'They that Mourn,' by Juliet Wilbor Tompkins.

Literary Gossip.

IN reference to a paragraph which appeared in a contemporary last week, and has since been copied in a large number of country newspapers, to the effect that Mr. Watts-Dunton has written a biography of Swinburne, and that it will be ready for the autumn, we are asked by him to say that this statement is entirely unauthorized, and that there is no truth whatever in it.

The Cambridge Review mentions some changes in the first part of the Classical Tripos, proposed by the amended report of the Special Board for Classics. Compositions in Greek and Latin verse are no longer to be compulsory, and papers on philology, metre, and prosody in these two languages may be taken instead. The Board further recommend that the papers which they formerly proposed should be devoted to philosophy, literature, and grammar should now be limited to the two former subjects.

These suggestions are sure to meet with considerable criticism, and will not in any case come into force till 1915. They seem, for one thing, further to depress the value of literary taste in comparison with solid learning which can be "got up." They represent, however, ideas which have the sympathy of schoolmasters throughout the country.

A CORRESPONDENT, noticing our statement that W. T. Stead is "credited with the practical invention of the interview," writes from Brookline, Mass., to claim the credit, or discredit, for a predecessor of Stead's—James Redpath, an American journalist, but an Englishman by birth. In the autumn of 1867 he secured and printed in *The Boston Daily Advertiser* an interview with General Benjamin F. Butler.

MR. MURRAY will shortly publish the 'Life' of John Hungerford Pollen, who was closely associated with Newman, being one of the inner circle of the Tractarians, and was amongst the last to secede. He was also one of the foremost decorative artists of the time, and took a leading part in the artistic revival of the nineteenth century. The biography has been written by his daughter.

IN June Messrs. Longmans are to publish 'Anglo-Indian Studies,' by Mr. S. M. Mitra, known as the author of 'Indian Problems.' A feature of the book is the stress laid on the importance of the Native States. It also discusses the utility of Native Princes in the House of Lords; and other important matters which occupy the attention of the modern Viceroy.

MR. JOHN REDMOND has just completed a brief volume entitled 'The Home Rule Bill,' which will be published immediately by Messrs. Cassell. In his Preface Mr. Redmond deals with the

historical aspect of the Home Rule question, and this is followed by an analytical exposition of the Home Rule Bill as it now stands. He includes his speeches made on the first and second reading of the Bill, and that delivered before the National Convention at Dublin on April 23rd last. The complete text of the Home Rule Bill and the Parliamentary White Paper are added.

SOME interesting letters have been appearing in *The Cambridge Review* concerning the last illness of Gunning, the well-known chronicler of the University. These, under the title of 'Gunning's Last Years,' are to be republished this summer by Messrs. Bowes & Bowes with a biographical introduction.

THE first part of Amundsen's book on his South Pole expedition was published on the 18th inst. by Messrs. Gyldendal of Copenhagen and Christiania. The work, which will appear serially in Denmark and Norway, will be accompanied by numerous illustrations, some 400 in all, the picture of the scene at the South Pole appearing in the first part, with maps, &c. A few introductory remarks by Nansen accompany this part.

ONE of the victims of the Titanic disaster was Mr. Henry Forbes Julian, a brave and experienced traveller who doubtless showed all the heroism befitting the occasion. He was one of the first Englishmen to visit the Zambesi Falls, travelling on foot 300 miles with natives as his only companions. A leading metallurgical engineer of the day, he did much work of the kind in South Africa at Johannesburg and Kimberley, and later at Frankfort. He was one of the founders of the Royal Automobile Club, and resided for some years in Devonshire, where he took a keen interest in science and archaeology. His wife is a daughter of William Pengelly, the founder of the Devonshire Association, and edited a striking memoir of her father in 1897.

THE death of Mr. James William Harrison, senior partner in the firm of Harrison & Sons, Printers in Ordinary to His Majesty, removes one of the oldest representatives of the trade in London. He was 82, and one of the fourth generation of a line of London printers which has been prolonged in his sons and grandsons. The firm are known, besides their official work, for many books of standard importance, such as 'Burke's Peerage.' Mr. Harrison introduced special work in the setting of Oriental languages, mathematics, and music.

THE obituary of the week also includes the names of Canon Joseph Hammond, the author of 'A Cornish Parish,' 'Church or Chapel? an Eirenicon,' 'English Nonconformity and Christ's Christianity,' and other books on religious subjects; and Mr. J. C. Wilbee, familiar for forty-six years to Harrow boys as the school bookseller.

SCIENCE

Views and Reviews from the Outlook of an Anthropologist. By Sir Harry Johnston. (Williams & Norgate.)

FROM this book one might almost gather that Sir Harry Johnston's definition of an anthropologist was "any one who writes about the human race racily." It is excellent journalism from the first page to the last—bright, suggestive, facile, and clever; but it will hardly pass as strict and serious science, as doubtless the author would be the first to allow. Yet Anthropology assuredly has no quarrel with Sir Harry Johnston, even if he chooses to sport her uniform when off duty. He belongs to that too rare type, the administrator who thoroughly appreciates the importance of studying his native charges scientifically—that is, disinterestedly and for their own sakes—as a first step towards their better government, and towards the greater glory of British empire. That this type of administrator is all too rare is proved by the fact that, as Sir Harry Johnston's opening essay brilliantly establishes, the Royal Anthropological Institute has never enjoyed a penny of State aid, and, for all that imperial officers or ministers or the leading lights of the Civil Service appear to know about it, might almost be non-existent. Yet to encourage anthropology is an excellent way of interesting the reading public—and that is nowadays a very large public, almost as large as the electorate, though it may not exactly coincide with it—in the Empire as something that in virtue of its human interest, rather than its mere size or wealth, can appeal to the imagination. The German Government, as Sir Harry Johnston points out, is more far-sighted. It spends freely on anthropological research and on ethnological museums in order to educate the German people in regard to the highly diversified life and culture of the regions open to their sway. So it will come about that they will perceive a potential garden where we can see nothing but a potato-patch in the making.

From these remarks it must not be deduced that Sir Harry Johnston is one of those who would egg on Briton against German in a pitiless struggle for domination over a world conceived as too small to contain them both. On the contrary, he is all for persuading the leading representatives of the "Nordic" race in Europe to combine peacefully in the realization of a common ideal. Such sentiments do him credit. It can hardly be said, however, that the question of the relative capacities of the various so-called "races" of Europe and of the rest of the globe is in our present state of knowledge determinable by scientific methods; and Sir Harry Johnston at all events makes no pretension to base his argument either on received scientific opinion or on fresh considerations adequately established. At

the same time practical experience in human affairs will often lead straight to right conclusions which it takes history and science the best part of an age to justify by formal proofs; and Sir Harry Johnston has had as good a chance as any man alive of comparing the African with the European type of man as a candidate for the highest honours in the school of civilization. We read his dicta, therefore, on the subject of Anglo-German relations, actual and possible, with the greatest interest and profit, even though we feel that it adds nothing to his authority here that he should profess to speak as an anthropologist.

Again, on another topical question Sir Harry Johnston would cast anthropological side-lights of which the less said, from the standpoint of critical ethnology, the better. This being premised, let us turn to enjoy the breeziness of a brace of essays made up of passages such as the following:—

"Ancient intermixture along the eastern seaboard of Ireland has produced certain types of face particularly characteristic of the English Pale. One is a stout, rubicund, blunt-featured person, with a thick, fleshy nose and long upper lip, together with a great tendency in the male to bushy whiskers—in short (except for the nose, which is too coarse and formless), a John Bull. Another very frequently seen visage in English-Ireland—Cork, Dublin, Waterford, Meath, and Kildare—is the 'weepy' type, so called from the watery blue eye, which always seems tinged with emotion, and is often red-rimmed as though with tear-shedding. With the moist, prominent, pale-blue or green eyes and light eyelashes goes a large Wellingtonian nose, with a prominent red bump marking the end of the nasal bone. The lips are loose and slightly pendulous. The firm chin becomes in old age somewhat 'pouchy.' The hands have prominent blue veins and long, bony, large-jointed fingers. The personal habit of the body tends to thinness (as contrasted with the coarse fleshiness of the John Bull type), and in the mental outlook these excellent 'weepy' persons incline to sentimentality, especially if they are women. Of such are the martyrs in many of Ireland's causes."

Sir Harry Johnston ends his book with an admirable essay on the preservation of rare animals, and tries to bring it into line with what has gone before by remarking that every anthropologist will be with him in wishing to see a certain "law" given to the rarer species. Undoubtedly this appeal to the anthropologist will not be in vain. It is better that the Tasmanian or Fuegian should be put on a par with the Okapi than that he should be ruthlessly hustled out of existence in the interest of that civilization of ours which in all its aspects is so remarkably "high." At the same time, we suspect this "argumentum ad misericordiam," because it cuts two ways at once. Some of us are perhaps not so robust as Sir Harry Johnston in our belief in the innate superiority of the Caucasian (whoever he may exactly be), and in any case he himself would hardly class the savage as more of an animal than a being with most of the rights, because most of the potentialities, of a true man.

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

[Notice in these columns does not preclude longer review.]

Bingham (S.), WORDS TO WIVES ON PREGNANCY AND PARTURITION, 3/6 net.

Allen
The author supplies a kind of professional scaffolding to help the growing structure of the coming race, but it differs little from similar aids except in his useful elaboration of the whole subject of the use of antiseptics in midwifery. The accustomed gibe at the non-nursing mother is not omitted, but silence reigns on the subject of the sour grapes which the fathers have eaten and the consequent effect upon their offspring.

Brauns (Dr. Reinhard), THE MINERAL KINGDOM, translated by L. J. Spencer, Parts XXI. and XXII., 2/ net each.

Williams & Norgate

These two parts deal with rock-salt and certain associated minerals, boracite and other species containing boron, and the mineral nitrates and fluor-spar. All these are described in the same popular, but accurate way that distinguished the earlier parts of the work. Economic mineralogy, which appeals to all, is never lost sight of, and hence the parts now before us describe not only the working and uses of salt, but also the industrial value of those remarkable deposits of Stassfurt, the so-called abraum-salts, which, though formerly regarded as worthless, are now of great value for their potash.

The coloured plates in this instalment are as good as any of their predecessors, the figures of the polychromatic species, fluorite, naturally forming an exceptionally handsome picture. In seeking, however, to reproduce the brilliant lustre on the cleavage-faces of mica the printer seems to have used a silver-like powder, which gives the mica the false appearance of a metallic mineral.

Bury (Judson S.), DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, 10/

Manchester University Press

Dr. Bury has in this book adopted, as far as was practicable, a clinical classification of nervous diseases. He has tested this method in his capacity of teacher at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. The student in this way obtains a grasp of the principles of anatomical diagnosis which are of vital importance in the recognition of diseases of the nervous system. The whole is clearly and interestingly written. The section dealing with syphilis of the nervous system supplies the most recent information on this subject, and will be read with interest by specialists and general practitioners alike. The excellent diagrams form an important addition to the text.

Davenport (C. B.), HEREDITY IN RELATION TO EUGENICS.

Williams & Norgate

A book founded on data collected in America. It goes further than the present knowledge of the science warrants.

Grünbaum (Albert S.), THE ESSENTIALS OF MORBID HISTOLOGY.

Longmans

This is an excellent little book which follows the lines of Prof. Schäfer's 'Essentials of Histology.' It is intended for students, and they will find invaluable help in the drawings of Miss A. Kelley. We have rarely seen such good coloured illustrations, and we do not remember having seen diseases of the blood treated so thoroughly in illustrations. It is a book which all students should possess.

Guenther (Dr. Konrad), EINFÜHRUNG IN DIE TROPENWELT: ERLEBNISSE, BEOBSACHTUNGEN UND BETRACHTUNGEN EINES NATURFORSCHERS AUF CEYLON, 4m. 80. Leipzig, Engelmann.

These experiences of a naturalist in Ceylon make a book at once instructive and amusing. Dr. Guenther describes the fauna, flora, and general scenery of the island—adding a chapter or two on the people and the history—in an easy, unpretentious way, which may disguise from a careless reader both the amount of information that he imparts and the thorough work which went to acquiring this. It is not that anything actually unknown before can be said to have been discovered by him, but that an unusual vivacity and freshness of treatment, and a happy knack of sketching incidents and movements, carry the reader on till he comes to share the author's eager sense of a new world opening before him. There are passages depicting wild life which, in their vividness and sympathy, remind us of Mr. Hudson's 'La Plata.' English readers may feel gratified by Dr. Guenther's general approval of English doings in Ceylon, and by his friendliness, which they will certainly come to reciprocate. We could have spared some of the minute details, so lavishly given, concerning getting up and going to bed and changing clothes, and we found the illustrations, though numerous, too small to be satisfactory.

King (Willford I.), THE ELEMENTS OF STATISTICAL METHOD, 6/6 net. Macmillan

This general statement of statistical method has a special interest, as America has hitherto contributed little of importance to the literature of the subject. Although the work is generally clear, making no attempt to probe the lower depths of the science, yet it suffers from that characteristic American thoroughness which is so often hardly distinguishable from over-elaboration. The "members of the educated public" who desire to know something of the processes employed by statisticians—the class of reader for whom the work is intended—will find nothing of great interest in the mathematics involved in Prof. Pearson's histograms, or in "historigrams"—apparently an American translation of time-curves. What will probably attract such readers will not be mathematics, but facts, for example, that imports into the United States are valued by a method unknown to any other country, or that the tariff schedules and the classifications of the U.S.A. Bureau of Statistics do not tally, with distressing consequences to the amateur fiscal reformer.

Lones (Thomas East), ARISTOTLE'S RESEARCHES IN NATURAL SCIENCE, 6/ net. West, Newman & Co.

The remarkable revival of Aristotelianism in England has not hitherto produced any important work examining the philosopher's contributions to natural science as a whole. Mr. Lones's book is somewhat brief, when the bulk of Aristotle's writings is considered, but it certainly fills a gap in the literature of the subject. We must take exception to the statement that Aristotle's works are characterized by "conciseness of expression and simplicity of language."

People's Books: HUXLEY, HIS LIFE AND WORK, by Gerald Leighton, 6d. net. Jack

There is something peculiarly fitting in this popular study of the man whose own writings contain the classic model of popular studies. No one can dispute the claim of 'Lay Sermons' or the lecture 'On a Piece

of Chalk' to be a perfect example of scientific accuracy blended with absolute simplicity and clearness. Prof. Leighton writes of Huxley very well. The biography is good, the relation to Darwin is well defined, and a just preference for Huxley's science over his philosophic and controversial works does not prevent an appreciation of their importance for contemporary thought. There is a short bibliography.

People's Books: INORGANIC CHEMISTRY, by Prof. E. C. C. Baly, 6d. net. Jack

In the place of the conventional centrifugal study of the commoner elements with the object of discovering general laws, Prof. Baly begins with a statement of the atomic theory, and proceeds by outlining principles rather than by presenting groups of facts. The author is to be congratulated upon his skilful and lucid exposition of the important laws of chemistry.

Taplin (A. Betts), HYPNOTISM, 1/ Simpkin & Marshall

This small book on hypnotism may be of use to those who believe in its efficacy. Charcot, who was one of the greatest authorities on nervous diseases, tried the effect of hypnotic suggestion for many years in Paris. He ultimately discontinued its use, because he found that the results were very uncertain, and that in some instances it was possible to do more harm than good.

JOHN GRAY.

THE too-early death of Mr. John Gray is a great loss to anthropology, and especially to the Royal Anthropological Institute, which he joined in 1894, and of which he became the active, energetic, and successful Treasurer in 1903. He had joined the British Association in 1892, and made in the Mathematical Section a contribution to the theory of the perfect influence machine. In 1894 he read a paper on the distribution of the Picts in Britain, as indicated by place-names, and in 1895 an account of the ethnographical researches undertaken at his suggestion by the Buchan Field Club in East Aberdeenshire, which is published at length in the *Transactions* of that Club. He made a further report on the same subject in 1899. The results are more fully displayed in a joint paper by him and Mr. Tocher in the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, xxx. 104-24. They gave a later account to the Association in 1901, and Mr. Gray was appointed Secretary of a Committee to organize a pigmentation survey of the schoolchildren of Scotland. In 1902 he made and published measurements of the Indian Coronation contingent, and was appointed Secretary of a Committee to organize anthropometric investigation in Great Britain and Ireland. In 1903 the late Prof. Cunningham became Chairman of that Committee, and its report in 1904 gave rise to a discussion that has been printed by the Institute as an occasional paper, in which Mr. Gray urged the utility to science and to the State of an anthropometric survey. Mr. Gray continued his labours on that Committee for several successive years, and not only wrote the greater part of its valuable reports, but also invented several ingenious machines for making anthropometric measurements. At the time of his death he had undertaken to give to the Conference of Child-Study Societies, on the 11th inst., a demonstration of an appliance recently invented by him for estimating mental aptitudes. He was an examiner in the Patent Office, a B.Sc., and an honorary Foreign Corresponding Member of the French Anthropological Society.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—May 16.—Sir Archibald Geikie, President, in the chair.—Mr. W. B. Hardy read a paper on 'The General Theory of Colloidal Solutions.' The physical properties of colloidal solutions prove them to be heterogeneous fluids. If the colloid particles are regarded as a stage in the appearance of a second fluid phase, the variations of the energy of the particles with the radius are of predominant importance. If we could assume, for instance, that the tension of the interface varied with the radius as the tension of a free film of fluid was found to vary with the thickness of the film by Renold and Rücker, globules of certain dimensions would alone be stable. It was pointed out, however, that at present there is no adequate basis in experiment or theory for regarding the peculiarities of soap films, themselves a colloidal form of matter, as the property of films or minute spheres of matter in general.

The same author also read papers on 'The Tension of Composite Fluid Surfaces and the Mechanical Stability of Films of Fluid' and 'On the Formation of a Heat-reversible Gel.' In the course of his study of the cyclo-pentanes Dr. Ruhemann has synthesized a substance which forms gels with apparently any solvent (alcohol, ether, carbon tetrachloride, carbon bisulphide, aldehyde, glacial acetic acid, &c.). A remarkable feature is that gelation occurs as readily in associating as in non-associating solvents. The gels have a peculiar structure owing to the fact that gelation starts from nuclei and only gradually involves the whole mass.

Messrs. H. E. Armstrong, E. F. Armstrong, and E. Horton read papers on 'Studies on Enzyme Action: XVI. The Enzymes of Emulsin (II.): Prunase, the Correlate of Prunasin,' and 'XVII. Enzymes of the Emulsin Type (II.): The Distribution of β -Enzymes in Plants.'

Messrs. H. E. Armstrong and J. Vargas Eyre read a paper, 'Studies on Enzyme Action: XVIII. Enzymes of the Emulsin Type (III.): Linase and Other Enzymes in Linacae.'

Mr. Alexander Forbes read a paper on 'Reflex Rhythm induced by Concurrent Excitation and Inhibition.' Sherrington has published myograph records, taken from the extensor muscle of the knee in the decerebrate cat, which show minute oscillations when excitatory and inhibitory reflex influences are pitted against each other. Similar and more striking oscillations have been recorded under similar experimental conditions. They occur most markedly when excitatory and inhibitory reflex stimuli are simultaneously employed, but they also occur when a single ipsilateral stimulus is so adjusted that its excitatory and inhibitory contents are nearly balanced. These oscillations are compared with the more regular rhythmic activities described by Graham Brown, and it is suggested that in general the simultaneous action of two diametrically opposed reflex influences may determine a rhythmic response. It is urged that a rhythmic response to a continuous stimulus must depend on an instability of equilibrium between the opposed tendencies at the average rate of discharge, a condition whereby a discharge once started is carried past the point where equilibrium, if possible, would occur.

Mr. T. Graham Brown read a paper on 'The Factors in Rhythmic Functions of the Nervous System.' In a previous communication it was shown that the act of rhythmic progression is intrinsically conditioned centrally and not peripherally. At the same time, it was suggested that the phenomenon of rhythmic movement in the act is conditioned during a balance of equal and opposite activities. That this is probably correct was shown by the experiments described in the present paper.

ASTRONOMICAL.—May 10.—Dr. F. W. Dyson, President, in the chair.—A paper was read by the President and Mr. E. W. Maunder on the position of the sun's axis as determined from photographs taken from 1874 to 1911, and measured at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. It was concluded that the final value agreed closely with that found by Carrington, and that there was no clear evidence of change during the period covered by the photographs.

Mr. Chapman read a paper by himself and Mr. Lewis, on the effect of magnetism on the rates of chronometers and watches. In a magnetic field the balance-arm becomes magnetized, and the chronometer or watch gains or loses according to its position in relation to the magnetic field.

Prof. Lowell dealt with the spectroscopic discovery of the rotation of Uranus at the Lowell Observatory. The photographs clearly showed the inclination of the lines in the spectrum of the limbs of the planet, from which a rotation period of about 10h. 45m. was deduced.

Dr. J. W. Nicholson read a second paper on the constitution of the solar corona.

Mr. H. C. Plummer read a paper on the proper motions and distances of stars of the spectral types B8 and B9, being a continuation of a paper read in January, and applying the same method to certain other stars which appeared to move in a plane near that of the Milky Way.

Mr. J. H. Reynolds read a preliminary paper on photographs of spiral nebulae in polarized light. The investigation was undertaken on the assumption that some of the light of the nebulae was reflected from the stars involved in it, and the photographs appeared to show evidence of polarization.

Prof. H. F. Newall contributed a note on the spectrum of the sun's limb during the partial eclipse of April 16th-17th, 1912.

METEOROLOGICAL. — Southport. — May 13. — After assembling at the Town Hall in the morning, the Fellows were driven along the Promenade, the Marine Drive, and some of the principal streets to the Anemograph Station at Marshside, where they saw the pressure-tube anemometers and the anemoscope at work. The exposure of these instruments is very open, as the district is an extensive reclaimed marsh adjoining the beach. A visit was then paid to the Fernel Observatory in Hesketh Park to see the large collection of self-recording and other instruments which are in use at this unique observatory.

After an adjournment for tea, a meeting of the Society was held in the Science and Art School, Dr. H. N. Dickson, President, in the chair. Mr. W. Marriott read a paper on the 'Results of Hourly Wind and Rainfall Records at Southport, 1902-11,' which was based upon data supplied by Mr. J. Baxendell, the Borough meteorologist. When the hourly results are grouped according to summer and winter seasons, a great contrast in the figures is at once apparent. A marked diurnal variation in the direction of the wind is shown in the summer, which is due to an extreme local development of those coastal phenomena popularly called "land and sea breezes"—that is, winds blowing off the land to the sea during the night and early morning, and off the sea to the land during the late morning and afternoon.

Mr. J. S. Dines read a paper on 'The South-East Trade Wind at St. Helena,' in which he showed that observations tend to confirm the hypothesis of a long-period oscillation in the wind direction at St. Helena.

ARISTOTELIAN. — May 6. — Mr. Bertrand Russell, President, in the chair.—Miss Beatrice Edgell read a paper on 'Imagery and Memory.' In examining the orders of fact which it is necessary for psychological analysis to recognize in its attempt to deal with memory as a cognitive state of consciousness, we may, following Bergson, distinguish retention, the memory which repeats, the memory of habit and practice, from the memory which imagines, memory proper. The differing forms of the latter—recognition, persistence, reminiscence, suggested recall, and recollection—manifest with varying degrees of distinctness three orders of fact: an act, reference back to the past, imagery and meaning or object remembered. Imagery is treated as the product of the reference back, the form in which consciousness responds to a given situation. It is "presentation," distinguishable from the act of remembering on the one hand, and from the meaning or what is remembered on the other. Unless "presentation" be so recognized, there is no justification for regarding a cognitive state of consciousness as generically different from other forms of conscious experience. All consciousness would then be reducible to one supreme category—conation. A sketch plan of such a merely conative psychology has been worked out by Prof. Alexander. But the attempt to eliminate "presentation" leads to insuperable difficulties. When imagery is treated as object and as non-mental, the "pastness" of what is remembered becomes unintelligible, while the memory of the subject's own past states of consciousness is *ex hypothesi* impossible, for such past states cannot be non-mental objects. Memory in this case has to be translated into "revival" or "renewal," but such a translation proves upon examination inadequate to the fact as consciously experienced. The paper was followed by a discussion.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

TUES. Royal Institution, 8.—'The Formation of the Alphabet,' Lecture I, Prof. W. M. Flinders Petrie.
THURS. Royal Institution, 8.—'X Rays and Matter,' Lecture I, Prof. C. G. Barkla.
FRI. Royal Institution, 8.—'Icebergs and their Location in Navigation,' Prof. H. T. Barnes.
SAT. Royal Institution, 3.—'The Development of Meteorological Science,' I, Mr. Willis L. Moore.

Science Gossip.

THE Annual Visitation of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, is to be held this year on Saturday next. The "old guard" will feel a certain satisfaction in finding that an old time date is adhered to on the present occasion.

PROF. ZEHNDER claims to have invented a method of wireless telegraphy that enables him to dispense with the complicated "antennae" which have made the erection of high towers, such as those at Poldhu, Clifden, Nauen, and elsewhere, necessary. Instead he uses a single insulated wire stretched at a moderate height above the ground, with its two extremities earthed. Its length bears a certain ratio to the length of wave employed, so that for a wavelength of 4,500 metres he uses a wire of 900 metres over land, and only 250 over water. His system also enables him to "direct" the waves emitted, the position of the wire showing the direction in which they produce the best effect. If it be true, as it is said, that Prof. Zehnder has already successfully used his apparatus to transmit from Berlin messages backwards and forwards across the Atlantic, it should supersede the antenna system for certain purposes, as when it is wished to protect the receiving and transmitting stations from the enemy's guns in time of war, or from the risk of storms in time of peace. His experiments so far suggest to him that the earth rather than the ether is the medium of transmission of electric waves, which is at least doubtful.

PROF. ARTHUR SCHUSTER has lately made a serious attempt to solve the problem of the magnetic power of the earth, and has examined carefully all the current theories on the subject. The fact that the magnetic poles are only a few degrees distant from the true poles of the earth has led many to conclude that the rotation of the earth on its axis must in some way be accountable for the phenomenon, but Prof. Schuster gives several reasons for thinking that this reasoning is wrong. He is more inclined to the theory that the earth is a magnet because of the masses of iron concealed within her crust, and thinks that this has not been sufficiently investigated. The laws of magnetism as exhibited on the surface may, he says, be entirely different at the high temperature and enormous pressure which are supposed to exist in the interior of the earth, and this is the direction in which further experiment may be useful.

An attempt to put what he calls "rhabdomancy," or the use of the divining rod, on a scientific basis, has been made by Prof. Karl V. Klinkowström. He says that "control" experiments made with the rods over subterranean conduits containing running water show that the traditional phenomena have a real existence; but that they can never be scientifically investigated unless some apparatus more removed from subjective influences than the human organism be employed. This, he thinks, he has found in a delicate static electrometer, which reveals, according to him, the existence of a perceptible radiation from a large extent of water. In confirmation of this, he appeals to the fact that storm-clouds have been shown to follow by preference the course of streams, and that thunderstorms are more violent in the neighbourhood of these than over dry land. Aeronauts also say that the clear spaces which they find in the interior of rain-clouds

are in nearly every case situated immediately above wide expanses of water. *A priori* there is, of course, nothing surprising in the connexion, if it exists, between these phenomena not having been observed before. The human race was for many ages in the presence of all the phenomena of electricity, magnetism, and radio-activity without perceiving their true bearing.

THE India Sanitary Report for 1910, just issued, gives as usual a detailed account of the general health of the Indian community, records the latest efforts of science to cope with the special diseases of the country, and provides tabular appendices which are invaluable to the statistician. The rates for births and deaths are calculated on the basis of the census of 1901, which gave a total population for British India of 226,438,733; but the provisional figures for the 1911 census show that these rates are not strictly accurate.

The total of births in the year under review was 8,947,991, and of deaths 7,518,034, the increase in the population being therefore 1,429,957. The birth-rate was 39.52 per thousand, and the death-rate 33.20. The former showed a rise from 36.65 in 1909, and the latter also increased from the 30.91 of the same year. But the mortality of 1909 was phenomenally low, owing to the exceptional decline in deaths from cholera and plague. In 1910, 430,451 people died from cholera, as compared with 239,231 in 1909; while plague claimed 413,355 victims, as against 145,333. On the other hand, fever, which accounts for five-eighths of the total mortality of the country, showed a decline from 4,487,492 to 4,341,392.

With regard to plague, the Research Commission is continuing its investigations into its etiology. One of the circumstances that attracted its attention was the rareness of bubonic plague in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and a medical officer was sent to make a special inquiry into the matter. He reported that the immunity of the province was due to the fact that rats were scarce, "the reason of this being the construction and arrangement of the houses and their cleanness." But the explanation of "the perplexing problem" why there is less plague in Madras city than in Bombay has to be reserved for further study, since it was discovered that the rat is not merely abundant in Madras, but even more susceptible to the plague epidemic than his fellow in Bombay.

Among other matters of interest we note the steadily improving health of the British army. In 1910 the death-rate was only 4.66 per thousand, as against 6.25 in 1909, and an average of 9.86 for the five preceding years. Improved health is not confined merely to deaths. It extends to the "constantly sick" and "invalided home." A few years ago over 25 per thousand of the men were invalided home—weakening the garrison each year by two battalions; in 1910 the ratio fell to 7.77. Perhaps the most striking proof of the improvement is the fact that the death-rate in the British is now slightly less than in the native Indian army—the ratio in the latter being 4.89 per thousand. We notice that the returns for Indian troops in out-stations—e.g., China, Singapore, and Aden—are still lower: even in Aden the rate was only 4.34. In China the ratio was but 3.86, and at Singapore and Colombo 3.36. The causes of the improved health of the two armies are reviewed at considerable length by the Commissioner, and the impression is left that they are likely to last, with increasing proportional effect.

FINE ARTS

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

[Notice in these columns does not preclude longer review.]

'Amateur Photographer' Library: 10, THE LANTERN, AND HOW TO USE IT, by C. Goodwin Norton and Judson Bonner; and 31, THE OIL AND BROMOIL PROCESSES, by F. J. Mortimer and S. L. Coulthurst, 1/ net each.

Hazell, Watson & Viney
Two new editions of concise handbooks upon these photographic processes. Full instructions are given as to the production of photographic prints in oil and bromo-oil, and the development of the optical lantern.

Henry (David), THE KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN, WITH OTHER MEDIEVAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR BUILDINGS IN ST. ANDREWS, 2/6 net. St. Andrews, Henderson

The author has for years collected material relating to the history of ancient buildings at St. Andrews, which, having been published in the columns of *The St. Andrews Citizen*, proved so interesting to its readers that a reprint in book-form was desired. There is a certain inexperience in treatment; for instance, we do not see why the life of St. Francis need have been related so fully, nor other remote historical matters so largely expatiated upon. On his proper subject the author is full of information.

Rhead (G. Woolliscroft), MODERN PRACTICAL DESIGN, 7/6 net. Batsford

This admirable and practical handbook should be stimulating to intelligent young students. It begins with an analysis of plant forms, accompanied by copious illustrations showing how to carry back these forms to their geometrical principles; goes on to an illuminating chapter upon 'The Ornamental Filling of Given Spaces'; and devotes the remaining two-thirds of its pages to the technique of particular applications of design—textiles, book-decoration, pottery, stained glass, &c. The whole book is clear and expert.

Turner's Water-Colours at Farnley Hall, Part I., with Text by Alex. J. Finberg, 2/6 net. *The Studio*

Colour-reproduction has, indeed, made strides when it has become possible to purchase excellent prints of five water-colours by Turner at a cost of 6d. each. The five in this first part of the series are: 'Bonneville, Savoy,' a beautiful, sober drawing of exquisite gradations in the colouring of mountains and of clouds; 'The Valley of the Wharfe,' a stretch of open country and meandering waters; 'The Valley of Chamounix,' skilful and delicate, but not quite so charming as 'Bonneville'; a lovely, luminous, early morning 'Scarborough'—the finest of the set; and a very interesting 'Interior of St. Peter's,' full of atmosphere and of misty distances.

Wall (E. J.), THE DICTIONARY OF PHOTOGRAPHY, AND REFERENCE BOOK FOR AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS, edited by F. J. Mortimer, 7/6 net. Hazell, Watson & Viney

A ninth edition of Wall's complete and scholarly work. It has undergone considerable revision, and, as is necessary in a science constantly pushing out and developing new methods of expression, has added nearly 100 pages of new matter. For the task of definition and reference in photography this edition is invaluable.

EARLY CHINESE PAINTINGS.

THIS collection at the Fine Art Society's gallery appears to us the finest exhibition of Chinese painting which has been shown in London since the display at the British Museum took the artistic public by storm and made admiration of such work fashionable. It includes several masterpieces, and enumeration of these is hampered by the difficulty of ruling out others which are of almost equal importance. For beauty of workmanship, the instinctive refusal to elaborate a work beyond the pitch at which the materials used display their maximum of intrinsic beauty, the Chinese are unrivalled, and before the executive perfection of such paintings as Nos. 4 and 5 in the present collection we are disposed to forget the slightness of the theme. The hand which wrought these delicate panels was certainly inspired by a higher seriousness than we find in the defiant cleverness of No. 1, *Birds, with Pomegranate Tree*, which might represent the triumphant flourish of some brilliant designer of wallpapers; but we recognize in the *Portrait of a Taoist Priest with Attendant* (30) the added impressiveness of an essentially dignified subject treated on a monumental scale. The spacious landscape, No. 42, *Imperial Hunt*, is another work of capital importance, carried off with a fluent ease never degenerating into sloppiness; while another painting of early date—*An Arhat resisting an Attack by a Dragon* (43)—is perhaps the most striking design in the exhibition. It reveals the sage floating high in the clouds—resisting attack, doubtless, by fasting and prayer, but enjoying with a certain plebeian humour the joke of his own immunity. The figure is very finely characterized—a conception of spiritual exaltation which the West would never have evolved—and the work would be impressive as well as humorous but for the poorly designed, peevish dragon, which tempts us to remain in the frivolous plane of thought.

As to the methods by which the extraordinary triumphs of execution of these Chinese artists were achieved we are still, in England at least, without any detailed and authoritative account. We had usually assumed them to have been painted on silk stretched horizontally, the complete command of a very liquid water-colour stroke apparently forbidding any other method. But the perfection of the long upright lines of No. 12, *Heron and Kingfishers*, a 6-foot panel largely filled with the drooping branches of a weeping willow or analogous tree, seems dazzlingly difficult to attain without the aid of an upright position. This, again, is one of the masterpieces of the collection. The massive designs of lotus leaves in Nos. 21 and 28 present large shapes to control at such necessarily close quarters as are implied by painting a picture on the floor; but here, indeed, the success appears to be a little gymnastic, as though the arm, with inimitable vigour, went through a series of concerted movements without adequate ordering by the eye to perfect its evolutions. In No. 29 we see an example—we are surprised not to meet with more of them—in which the usual darkening of the silk with years has had a disastrous and disturbing effect on the values of the composition. The use of opaque pigments is usually so thin that even these alter in value with the ground. One of the causes, indeed, which give Chinese paintings their aspect of nobility is the appearance

the paint has of being incorporated into the very substance of the material painted on. It thus shares in some sort the monumental look of fresco, compared with which a painting by modern methods always looks technically meretricious—a superficial daubing over of the structural basis of the work. Among the quite small paintings which risk being overlooked we must signal out three of great beauty—Nos. 35, 36, and 39.

SKETCHES BY RUBENS.

THIS loan exhibition, organized by Messrs. Dowdeswell in aid of the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, shows the master's qualities admirably. Some of the works, such as the fine series of tapestry designs lent by Lord Barrymore, have been exhibited not infrequently in our time. The equally fine and much larger work contributed by the Corporation of Glasgow—*Nature adorned by the Graces* (14)—is, however, less familiar to Londoners, and would in itself suffice to make the exhibition important. The central group is, indeed, indifferent in quality—*lêché*, timidly drawn, too small in scale for the rest of the picture, and with no suggestion of atmospheric perspective to account for the fact by distance. But the great garland of fruit and flowers and the lusty figures supporting it, which frames in the inadequate centrepiece, is superb. Few things mark the greatness of Rubens more convincingly than the way in which he could utilize the mannered brilliance of a painter of still-life like Breughel, picking up chance suggestions of direction or constituent colours in a beautifully painted, but quiescent flower-piece, and, by planting here and there in its luxuriance his own vigorous figures, transform the whole by his abundant vitality. The impression of wealth and splendour emitted from this panel is delightful, and it must be admitted that by comparison the large *Meleager offering the Head of the Boar of Calydon to Atalanta* (9) is somewhat disappointing. It is in magnificent preservation, and has an occasional passage of clean, hard brilliance difficult to parallel outside his own work or that of Jordaens, but neither colour nor form is really well knit, and the panel looks as if it might readily have formed part of a larger composition.

A fine landscape, *The Timber Wagon* (12), and an uncatalogued *Wolf Hunt* are among the best of the exhibits. In the latter the clarity and brilliance of the pigments used proclaim Rubens as in some sort heir to the earlier Flemish painters, even when, as in this picture, he is fresh from the study of the Italians of the Renaissance. He shows the influences of heredity, too, in the curious way in which, instinctive decorator as he was, he yet clung to the use of copious small darks, giving precision to his detail throughout a design. He distributed this rather linear skeleton of shadow with inexhaustible variety and ease, but it cannot be denied that, even so, it is small and fretting in its effect; witness the treatment of the legs in the advancing figures relieved against the superb landscape, which is so attractive a feature in this fine work. Indeed, there is hardly a picture in the room in which the same fault is not discernible, though in some, such as No. 11, *Thetis receiving Arms from Vulcan for Achilles*, the wealth of small form is so lavish as to pack into massiveness and lose its spidery quality.

MINIATURES AT BRUSSELS.

THE ENGLISH SECTION.

II.

DIFFICULTIES in regard to other ascriptions are not wanting — e.g., No. 58, 'Portrait of Lord John Cutts,' signed and dated 1662, and here ascribed to Samuel Cooper. Inasmuch as John, Lord Cutts, was (according to the 'Dictionary of National Biography') not born till 1661, and this is the portrait of a grown man, there is evidently something wrong here; but it is a good miniature, suggesting in style Laurence Crosse, who, by the way, is exceptionally well represented. The charms of the yellow-skinned lady called 'Nell Gwynne,' No. 62, dated 1668, when she would be only 18, must have faded, if it be Cooper's work at all. The small oil painting of an unknown man (63), which hangs next to it, is, on the other hand, extremely fresh and pleasing. It belongs to Mr. Lippmann. No. 45, 'Lady Castlehaven,' from Madresfield, presents more difficulties of a like nature. It is hard to accept such handling as this as the work of Cooper. The 'Margaret Lemon' (40), owned by Mr. Pfungst, is a sad example of fading. All the colour has gone from the face of this well-known mistress of Van Dyck, whose portrait is to be found at Hampton Court and elsewhere (here she is dressed as a Cavalier); but it is an interesting and genuine picture—perhaps the most important work of the master shown in this Exhibition. Another Cooper representing a lady in male attire is a portrait of the Duchess of Richmond (655), better known as 'La Belle Stuart,' that coquettish lady of whom both Charles II. and his brother James were so much enamoured, and whose real character is much in dispute, or was in the days of Pepys. Of the first-named monarch there is a version of the Duke of Richmond's superb miniature representing him in the full robes of the Order of the Garter. This is probably Cooper's most elaborate work, and it was given by Charles to the Duchess of Portsmouth. The version here shown comes from the Rijks Museum, and is markedly inferior to the *chef d'œuvre* at Goodwood.

There is, by the way, in the Foreign Section a very brilliant enamel by Bone, after Lely, of 'Madam Quarrell,' as the English populace were wont to call her Grace of Portsmouth.

By Alexander Cooper are six examples from the Queen of Holland's collection. They are all Dutch-like in feeling, and tame in comparison with the work of Samuel, the brother and superior artist, as he is here seen to be.

I have referred to the works by Crosse. They are all vigorous and excellent, in a fine state of preservation, and form a representative and interesting group. Mr. Pfungst and Messrs. Duveen own the greater part of them; but the finest of all, in a silver filigree frame, is No. 100, 'Mrs. Catherine Boevey (*née* Riches),' belonging to Mr. Henry Gibbs.

By Nicholas Dixon, a painter unknown to Redgrave, are some half-dozen or more examples which make the work of the Lens family, of which there are numerous specimens hanging near them, appear poor in comparison. This is an instance in which the reputation of a comparatively unknown painter is much enhanced by familiarity with his work.

There is one case in 'la Section Anglaise' which the student should not overlook. There is nothing *ad captandum* about its contents; but all who appreciate fine draughtsmanship will enjoy the plumbago portraits (Nos. 350 to 367), the work of

Isaac Becket, Hollar, Thomas Forster, the Fabers, Loggan, Bulkeley, and others who drew *ad vivum* and whose work is often remarkable for its truth and delicate finish. J. J. FOSTER.

ETCHINGS AND ENGRAVINGS.

MESSRS. CHRISTIE sold the following etchings and engravings on Tuesday last: D. Y. Cameron, St. Etienne, Caen, 77l.; North Porch, Harfleur, 52l.; Ben Ledi, 131l.; St. Laumer, 75l.; Old Cairo, 63l.; The Gateway, Bruges, 67l. Muirhead Bone, South Coast, 63l.; Culross Roofs, 58l.; Stirling Castle, 54l.; Ayr Prison, 81l.; Distant Oxford, 54l.; St. John's Wood, 52l.; The Great Gantry, Charing Cross, 157l.; The Great Gantry (D. 203), early state, 168l. Les Chagrins de l'Enfance, after Monchet, by Le Cœur, in colours, 90l. Flirtilla, by and after J. R. Smith, printed in colours, 115l. Lady Taylor, after Reynolds, by W. Dickinson, fine impression of the only state, 194l. Louisa, by and after W. Ward, printed in colours, 50l. Lady Acland and Children, after Lawrence, by S. Cousins, 50l. Mrs. Musters, after Romney, by J. Walker, second state, 190l. 10s. Dedham Vale, after Constable, by D. Lucas, proof before letters, 90l. 15s. The Lock, and The Cornfield, after and by the same, proofs before letters, 131l.

RÆBURN PORTRAITS.

On Tuesday, the 14th inst., Messrs. Sotheby sold a pair of portraits by Ræburn—those of George Thomson, the friend of Burns, and his wife. The former fetched 761l. 5s., and the latter 4,672l. 10s., both being 29 in. by 24 in.

Fine Art Gossip.

LADY BUTLER'S 'The Roll Call,' now to be seen at the Leicester Galleries, is an amazing production for a young girl, and, as frequently happens in such cases, the seriousness of the primitive period was succeeded by a fluent ease commonplace enough—exactly similar to the work we are accustomed to find done for the weekly illustrated papers. 'The Roll Call' is better than that, rather dull in execution, but sincere. It is evidently akin to Frith's 'Derby Day,' but in the figure of the mounted officer a search for dignity meets with some reward.

THE Home Arts and Industries Association held its twenty-eighth annual exhibition last week in the Albert Hall; and very interesting the display was, in spite of its glaring need of a competent business manager. Will it be believed that, while the catalogue is alphabetical, the stalls were arranged upon some other plan, and that no single address other than the Albert Hall is printed in it, so that would-be purchasers have no convenient means of communicating later with workers whose productions they might like to buy? A full and detailed catalogue, worth keeping for reference, which could be sold at a profit for 6d., would probably more than double the London sales and orders; while the appointment of a press agent would greatly strengthen support in the country.

The level of work has become high, and little really inartistic was to be seen. Much of the embroidery and nearly all the lace were very good. Among the more striking and original things shown were the Sarum wrought ironwork, the rugs of the Agatha Stacey Home (Birmingham) for feeble-minded girls, the gorgeous painted and gilded leather screen from Failand, the toys of Mr. G. Shergold, the hand-made silk buttons from Lytchett Minster, chairs from the Gowrie Labour Home, and baskets from Saxmundham. The good work evidently being done by the Wilts Arts and Crafts Association was noticeable in the numerous articles from that county.

MESSRS. ELLIS are about to issue Mr. H. C. Lewis's 'A Descriptive Bibliography of Engraving and Prints.' The author's intention has been to describe the most important, interesting, and rare books in English on engraving and print collecting, and show their development and relation to each other. Beginning with the earliest 'Books of Secrets' issued in the sixteenth century, he describes the practical and historical treatises on the different branches of engraving and collecting that followed them, down to the latest monographs on individual artists and schools, including many scarce publications of learned societies and clubs.

THE book on 'South American Archaeology' which we reviewed last week should have been credited to the Medici Society as well as Messrs. Macmillan as publishers. The publication is a joint affair, and the Society asks us to give it due credit for its share in the enterprise, which we gladly do.

At the recent meeting of the Classical Association of Scotland in St. Andrews, Prof. Burnet propounded a new theory of the origin of the Ionians. He believes they were the Minoans expelled from Crete when the Northern invaders finally broke the power of Cnossus about 1000 B.C. We know from recent discoveries that by that time the Hittite power, which had in earlier centuries prevented the spread of Minoan influence into Asia Minor, had decayed.

Certain Mycenaean finds and legends connecting Crete with Ionia were held to confirm the view. The change in the destination of the sacred ship from Crete to Delos might, it was suggested, also have some significance in the same direction. The lecturer agreed with Prof. Ridgeway in believing that the Minoans spoke Greek. The language of the Minoan tablets is, however, not yet settled.

M. NARIMAN has drawn attention to the numerous parallels that can be traced between the beliefs and practices of the modern Zoroastrians or Parsis and those of Buddhism. Among these are the consanguineous marriages which were perhaps the most striking feature of Persian religion in Greek eyes, and which M. Nariman shows rather unexpectedly to have been common not only among the Buddhist kings of Burma, but also in the family of Gautama himself. So, too, the exposure of the dead to be devoured by birds and beasts, instead of the cremation of the corpse, is referred to with approval in the Jatakas and many other Buddhist books, and seems to have been the practice among Buddhist communities in Mongolia and Thibet. The literary form of the Sutras is not a very convincing argument, because conversations in the shape of question and answer between a master and his disciples are known in other religions; but the likeness between the Saōshyānt or future Saviour (or Saviours) of the Parsi literature, and the Maitreya or future Buddha, is striking. Yet it does not follow that these likenesses imply a common origin. Contact and even direct imitation are responsible for closer analogies between different religions than would at one time have been thought possible.

M. AMÉLINEAU has again addressed himself to the beginnings of Egyptian Christianity, and produced a long study of the life of St. Anthony, whom the Copts consider the founder of Christian monachism. The famous scene of the Temptation here appears with full details, and is laid in the first monastery or *cenobium* inhabited by St. Anthony, which seems to have been instituted as a direct copy of the cells in the

Serapeum of Alexandria, where those vowed to the Græco-Egyptian god Serapis were accustomed to "intern" themselves. Here St. Anthony tried to conquer the demon who revealed herself to him as the spirit of wantonness by all the known practices of asceticism, including fasting, sleeping unclothed even in the cold nights of Egypt, and not anointing himself with the oil used by his countrymen. Finding these practices unavailing, he transferred himself to the range of hills separating the Nile Valley from the Fayum, and there lived in a tomb, thus braving the wrath of the *ka*, or double of the dead, whom he—like other Egyptians of the time—believed to dwell there. When he quitted this at the age of 35, it was for the village of Meimoun, where he founded the monastery which still bears his name. It is a curious story, and throws great light upon the way in which Egypt passed, as has been said, from paganism to Christianity almost without knowing it. That the clothing, for instance, adopted by the monks of the East and West alike, was the costume of the period for the Egyptian peasant there can be little doubt.

MUSIC

MASSENET'S 'DON QUICHOTTE.'

Or the later works of Massenet only two have been heard in London, 'Le Jongleur de Notre-Dame' and 'Don Quichotte,' the latter of which was produced at the London Opera-House yesterday week. In these Massenet seems to have written for himself and his art, without any concessions to public demand. In 'Don Quichotte' the part of Dulcinée is a comparatively small one; the Don and Sancho are the chief figures. But for the "mad scene" in 'Lucia,' or the 'Bell' song in 'Lakmé,' those operas would long ago have died a natural death. 'Don Quichotte' has its sensation, the 'Windmill' episode, which, by the way, was most skilfully presented on the stage. Massenet, or rather his librettist, Henri Cain, introduced it, however, not for its spectacular effect, but as the most striking instance of the Don's power of imagination. The libretto is based on a drama by Le Lorrain, which, while dealing freely with the history of Don Quixote as told by Cervantes, gives a very fair outline of his career, without setting forth the satirical aim of the poet.

Though there are lyrical passages, the music throughout is continuous. At the opening of the first act characteristic Spanish rhythms are heard in the music, while the crowd is dancing and singing in the square. The most dramatic music occurs in the third and fourth acts, but, as in Verdi's 'Aida,' it is intimately connected with what is taking place on the stage. In that respect Massenet seems to have been influenced by Wagner's theories rather than by his practice; for the greatest admirers of Wagner's genius must admit that at times in the 'Ring' the music gets the upper hand.

The performance at the London Opera-House was excellent. The impersonation of the Don by M. Lafont showed gifts of a high order; from beginning to end he was absorbed in his part. His singing was forcible, and his diction remarkably clear. He was ably supported by M. José Danse as Sancho, whose part, though secondary, is of no small importance. Mlle. Yvonne Kerford (Dulcinée) sang and acted well. M. Fritz Ernaldy conducted with marked ability.

Musical Gossip.

At the recent Balfour Gardiner Concerts Mr. Percy Grainger's compositions proved of high merit. His setting of the Faeroe Ballad was original, while the 'Mock Morris' was as clever as it was quaint. On Tuesday evening the composer gave a concert at the Æolian Hall, with a programme devoted entirely to his music. Of the various numbers the clog dance 'Handel in the Strand,' in which the so-called 'Harmonious Blacksmith' air plays a part, was particularly clever and characteristic. Mr. Grainger has struck out a line of his own, but his settings—vocal and instrumental—of folk-songs are all, and rightly, of small compass. Compositions of this kind depend for their due effect on brevity. Piquancy of rhythm or harmony, if protracted, is apt to pall.

THE ST. PETERSBURG QUARTET gave two fine concerts at Bechstein Hall on Friday, the 17th, and Tuesday, the 21st inst. At the first the programme included Tchaikowsky's early Quartet in F, and the long, unequal, yet interesting Trio in A minor. At the second Beethoven's G major Quartet was played, and Schubert's in D minor, also Arensky's Pianoforte Quintet. Admirable renderings of these works were given. The ensemble was perfect, and the interpretations were soul-stirring.

'THE FLYING DUTCHMAN,' 'THE RHINE-GOLD,' AND 'THE VALKYRIE' vocal scores have just been published in Messrs. Breitkopf & Härtel's English Popular Edition. Here, as in a previous number of this edition, Mr. Ernest Newman in his English version has tried—and successfully—to follow the original text. He also, in many instances, faithfully reproduces the original alliteration. Otto Singer in the pianoforte parts has managed to give with rare skill a good idea of the score, while, at the same time keeping the writing well within the range of ordinary players.

An edition for low voice has also been published, with German text and English version by Mr. Ernest Newman, of Wagner's 'Five Poems,' i.e., poems which he set to music.

ON May 12th M. Jules Massenet celebrated the seventieth anniversary of his birth. He studied at the Paris Conservatoire, won the Prix de Rome in 1863, and his first work for the stage, 'La Grand' tante,' was produced at the Opéra Comique in 1867.

THE Danish singer Herr Peter Cornelius, who has now secured a leading place at Covent Garden, has been asked to sing Siegfried at the musical festival which takes place at Bristol in September, when the 'Ring' cycle will be given.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Sax. | Special Concert, 3.30, Royal Albert Hall. |
| | National Sunday League Concert, 7, Queen's Hall. |
| Mon. Ev. | Royal Opera, Covent Garden. |
| Mon. Ev. | London Opera-House, Kingsway. |
| Wed. | Jacques Thibaud's Violin Recital, 3.15, Bechstein Hall. |
| | Vernon D'Arnauld's Vocal Recital, 3.15, Æolian Hall. |
| | Nathalie Axtworthy's Concert of Russian Music, 8.15, Æolian Hall. |
| | Société des Concerts Français, 8.30, Bechstein Hall. |
| Thurs. | Twelve o'clock Chamber Concert, Æolian Hall. |
| | Harry Alexander's Vocal Recital, 3, Æolian Hall. |
| | Bronislaw Huberman's Violin Recital, 3.15, Queen's Hall. |
| | Lortie's Chopin Recital, 8.15, Bechstein Hall. |
| | Lily West's Chamber Concert, 8, Bechstein Hall. |
| | May and Beatrice Harrison's Orchestral Concert, 8.15, Queen's Hall. |
| | Thalberg's Pianoforte Recital, 8.15, Æolian Hall. |
| | Nordica's Vocal Recital, 8.15, Queen's Hall. |
| Fri. | Louis Persinger's Violin Recital, 3.15, Bechstein Hall. |
| | Maria D'Alheim's Vocal Recital, 8.15, Bechstein Hall. |
| | Emilie Bonnard's Pianoforte Recital, 8.15, Steinway Hall. |
| | Hilda Saxe's Pianoforte Recital, 8.30, Æolian Hall. |
| Sav. | Melba Kimm's Violin Recital, 3.15, Queen's Hall. |
| | Jan Mulder's Concert, 8.15, Queen's Hall. |
| | Lella Doubleday's Violin Recital, 8.15, Æolian Hall. |

DRAMA

LADY GREGORY'S FOLK-HISTORY PLAYS.

EVERY devotee of the Irish Literary Theatre is perforce an admirer of Lady Gregory's folk-comedies, even if he admits that there is often in them a strain of farce, and perhaps a suggestion of the observer who views the Irish peasantry too externally, and accepts their posture too literally. But there is a phase of that conscientious artist's talent with which we are less familiar on this side of the Irish Sea, though it is hinted in her more serious one-act plays. Ireland looks two ways—if one eye is fixed on an idealized future, the other glances back at an idealized past, and no writer can hope to interpret the spirit of the country who is not steeped in its legends and history. Lady Gregory, then, may be taking risks, since she has been so successful in the vein of comedy; but she is fulfilling a proper ambition when she attempts, and offers in book-form, a series of 'Irish Folk-History Plays.'

These are in two sections of three plays each, in the first of which, relying, as she does, almost entirely on chronicles and traditional lore, she subordinates her sense of humour to the demands of the heroic and tragic. The second section—tragicomedies, so called—give more scope to her natural instinct for the ironic or the ludicrous.

Of the tragedies, the shortest—a study of the old age and repentance of Dervorgilla, who is credited with having betrayed Ireland to the English invaders—has been seen in London at the Court Theatre. A static and monotonous play, with its story mainly told in retrospect, it makes a better closet than stage drama, and one needs a lively appreciation of the Irishman's implacability towards the anti-patriot not to be impatient over its octogenarian heroine's remorse. The version of 'Kincora' Lady Gregory now prints is one of several she has written, and she is hampered by superabundance of material. Her rival kings, Malachi and Brian, whose careers are wrecked by the termagant queen they marry in succession, this queen herself, and the son and brother she uses as her pawns, are all characters more suited to epic than dramatic treatment. The best of the tragedies is 'Grania,' concerned with a heroine who is very much in Deirdre's situation, but is Deirdre with a hard streak in her nature. The author tells us she was attracted to the subject by its very difficulties, by the riddle Grania herself poses, "Why did she, having left grey-haired Finn for comely Diarmuid, turn back to Finn in the end when he had consented to Diarmuid's death?" Lady Gregory solves the riddle by making Grania jealous of the friendship of her two lovers. Even so the motive

Irish Folk-History Plays. By Lady Gregory. 2 vols., 10s. net. (Putnam's Sons.)

seems over-subtle, and it is doubtful whether any audience unacquainted with the legend would tolerate the heroine's bewildering change of front.

The tragi-comedies lead off with 'The Canavans,' a delightfully anachronistic *jeu d'esprit* in which two diverting Irish peasants—one a farmer as timid as a hare, the other a brother of his with a knack of involving himself in scrapes and struggling out of them—are pitchforked into the Ireland of Queen Elizabeth's days, and, with a change of rôle, play the oddest game of cross-purposes with playgoers or readers. No wonder this has captivated Ireland. Of the other two, 'The White Cockade' handles with interest the Irish attitude towards the Stuarts. It gives a most unfavourable picture of James II., and even accepts the story of his attempt to escape the heroic Sarsfield hidden in a wine-cask.

The strangest play comes last. This is a dramatization of the story of Moses in Egypt, with a new turn in the hypothesis that his enslaved fellow-Jews assailed him with stones. It is written in the Anglo-Irish vernacular, the medium being adopted apparently so that the tale may serve as an allegory of the Irish people's treatment of Parnell. It is ingenious as a piece of symbolism, and, if Pharaoh's Jewish slaves speak in the Milesian dialect, it must be remembered that Renaissance painters dressed their saints of Palestine in mediæval robes, and the actors of the eighteenth century gave Hamlet and Macbeth a powdered wig.

Dramatic Gossip.

WHEN 'Mrs. Dane's Defence' was produced a dozen years ago high praise was awarded it in these columns (see No. 3807, p. 487), as a drama with an intensely moving story and a climax led up to by consummately adroit stage-craft. There is no need, now that it is revived at the New Theatre, to revise that opinion, and though the fact may be more obvious to-day that the play was written round its masterly cross-examination scene, it has not aged perceptibly. If the big act is not quite so harrowing in its effects on the nerves, this is only because the plot is now familiar, and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones has met with the flattery of imitation.

Fortunately three important members of the original cast—Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Lena Ashwell, and Miss Mary Moore—are still available; the play without them would hardly seem the same. Sir Charles, a little nervous on the first night of the revival till he found the right pitch for the theatre, soon assumed that air of confident authority, and exhibited afresh that splendid gift he has of phrasing, which make the study of his art a liberal education to the playgoer. He and Miss Ashwell, whose variations of tone and mood were never more tellingly used than in the part of Mrs. Dane, contrived that the duel between the judge and the woman with a secret should win the customary rounds of applause.

WITH the coming of each April or May Sir Herbert Tree suspends any other arrangements at His Majesty's to offer a comprehensive Shakespearian repertory season. Of late this has been no mere enterprise of

a single management, however spirited; brother managers have brought their productions to his theatre for the annual festival, and he has been able to rely generally on the co-operation of distinguished fellow-actors. By force of circumstances it happens this year that the eighth Shakespeare festival is more limited in time, scope, and players. But Mr. Bouchier, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, and Mr. Lyn Harding have placed themselves at their colleague's disposal.

The festival was inaugurated last Monday night with a revival of 'The Merchant of Venice,' and in the week's programme we were promised also 'Twelfth Night' and 'Othello.' The first in beauty of production rivalled the staging of Sir Henry Irving. But Sir Herbert's Shylock is now familiar to the London playgoer; the novelty of the current revival is the Portia of Miss Phyllis Neilson-Terry.

Viola, Rosalind, Juliet, Desdemona—she has tried them all, but it is in the part of Portia that Miss Neilson-Terry's sunny nature finds itself most at home. This is a Portia, too, who does not accentuate her sex in the court scene. Soaring to self-forgetful eloquence in the "mercy" speech, for the rest she is the keen advocate.

MR. IDEN PAYNE made an audacious venture at the Little Theatre in producing Mr. Edward Garnett's adaptation of Fernando de Rojas's late sixteenth century Spanish drama 'La Celestina.' The producer, who is an artist and not a showman, had the perception to give an almost Reinhardt setting to the play, the scenario, designed by Mr. Kurt Gutzeit, being reminiscent of 'Sumurun,' and justly felicitous in atmospheric suggestion. We can understand the impetus which the play offered to dramatic representation in Europe, and especially to the powerful Spanish drama. It provides the nicest adjustment of dramatic contrasts, the "picaresque" element breaking in satirically upon the romantic—the desperate and specialized romanticism of an age and nation that clung to and spurned its chivalric traditions. The charlatan and go-between 'La Celestina,' whose rhetorical wiles are instrumental in bringing the lovers Melibea and Calisto together, and the two rascally valets of the latter embody the "cony-catching" disposition which our own Greene, Nashe, and Peele knew so well. Unfortunately, Mr. Garrett seems to us to have been too ruthless in his modernization. He has lopped and pruned the rank, primal blossoms of the rough-shod, but effective contrasts. As it is, the play is more a *novelle* than dramatic, and its adaptor's finikin literary sense accentuates the blemish. Its strength and actuality were eviscerated. Miss Mona Limerick is certainly a unique tragic actress, even though her highly temperamental superiority be artificial, and at times positively repellent. Her rendering of Melika was a personal rather than a dramatic one. Though occasionally excelling in swift realization of tragic demands, she more often destroyed harmonious impressions of beauty by her chanting monotone and oppressive demeanour.

At any rate, she gave a forceful representation of slumbering fires fiercely awakened. Miss Isabel Gray impersonated La Celestina skilfully, but should have known her part better.

MRS. LYTTLETON'S 'Peter's Chance,' produced for a series of matinées at the Royalty and dealing with East-End mission life, has drawn so large a consensus of approval that we think the best service we can render is to point out some strictures to which the

play is obviously open. For the presentment we have nothing but praise, except in the case of Mr. Malcolm's caricature of a young curate sent by his bishop straight from a sheltered life at Oxford to act as assistant to an East-End missionary priest. To emphasize, as was done, this young man's elemental wrong-headed heartlessness was unnecessary. If Mrs. Lyttelton had followed his collecting of his West-End traps by making him shake the East-End dust off his feet in the first act she would have justified his introduction. Mr. Beveridge gave us a delightful impersonation of a big-hearted priest, who understood that the appeal to his parishioners must be through the beautiful crudities of religion, and presentment to them of personified Deity. We were, however, disappointed to find that Mrs. Lyttelton so well understood her West-End audience as to gain their suffrages by tricks that would have been justly resented by a more fair-minded public. An instance is the case of the tramp who, having given himself a much-needed bath on the promise of "a drink," became abusive when he was offered a mug of coffee in satisfaction of the promise. We imagine the priest who answered his abuse by violently ejecting him would have been just as indignant if, after consenting—of course quite as much against his inclination—to partake of unlimited champagne with his rich friends, in the belief that they would give him money for his mission, he had been sent away, not with the money he went forth to seek, but with official orders for consigning his undesirables to the lethal chamber. The one action would have been as defensible as the other, and both equally open to the charge of "not playing the game."

Again, the woman thief had given fair warning that, though she accepted the Father's hospitality for her "boy" while hiding from the police, she would use all her powers—of the strength of which the reverend gentleman had full knowledge—to prevent his becoming "pi." So it was surely culpable of his reverence to go off to visit his rich friends just when she was expected to reclaim her lover. To have trusted so recent a convert with the custody of a 20l. note and the chapel ornaments was to court disaster, and in direct contradiction to Christ's prayer for deliverance from temptation. Subsequently we were not surprised that the Father did not interrupt his prayers until it was too late to save his protégé from being murdered.

Our satisfaction at learning that the pathos of the piece had drawn tears from the eyes of some ladies in the audience was modified by the fact that it had not drawn the "flower gardens"—as one gentleman near us called them—off their heads. The tears were so small as apparently not to incommode even those who shed them, whereas the hats were so large as seriously to inconvenience any one behind them.

MISS HESTER SAINSBURY is to be congratulated on the two short plays which were produced at the Rehearsal Theatre this week. Both of them display imaginative force, and it is probable that, as she grows in experience, her dramatic development will be correspondingly strengthened.

The first was 'A Phantasy in Black and White,' with an amusing prologue between Lady Caroline of 1830 and Lady Clare of 1912. The gist of the matter is a struggle between Good (Miss Eveline Thompson) and Evil (Miss Ruth Franklin) over a Woman's Soul (Miss Joyce Gale). The action and voice of Evil, with the more effective expression introduced into the movements of hands and arms, threw the milder

conduct of Good rather into eclipse. The dramatic situation was strongly accentuated when Good hypnotized Evil to drink a cup of poison. The predominant idea of this morality was the necessity of evil in the production of good. The Phantasy was brightened by the appearance from time to time of three gracefully posing maidens termed The Years.

The second piece, in which Miss Sainsbury took the chief part of a mother, was called 'A Dead Child,' which was discovered and carried away by a Dryad and a Naiad. The dialogue between the two wood nymphs, especially when the mother intervened, was occasionally striking both in its simplicity and its quaintness. In this and in the other piece a critic was at a decided disadvantage in not possessing a book of the words.

THE historical and ecclesiastical play 'Glastonbury,' by the Rev. W. T. Saward (Rector of Bolnhurst), which was introduced to the public at the Corn Exchange, Bedford, a few months ago, has been given in two matinées at the Court Theatre with remarkable success. The stir and bustle of the opening act in the Market-Place, Glastonbury, did much credit to the minor actors, and the only suggestion we have to offer to the author, who has achieved previous successes in ecclesiastical drama, is that he should have given the words spoken by the old gaffer, as representative of those poor folk who much appreciated the continuous charity of the monks, a touch, at least, of the rich "Zummerset" dialect, instead of utterances in a finished cultured tone. The clash of opinion between the worldlings who desired to stand well with Henry VIII. and those who were inclined to cling closely to the old order of affairs is graphically portrayed.

No fewer than six of the Bedford clergy took part in this stirring drama of the fall of Glastonbury Abbey and the legal murder of the last Abbot. The part of the Abbot was played with telling effect by the author; the Prior, the Solo Cantor, the Thurifer, and Brother Ambrose were all taken by local clergy; whilst Brother Christopher (Rev. Dr. W. H. Collisson) was decidedly impressive in the scene where

he beards the Sheriff of Somerset, and frankly represents the conflict of those days, on the highest level, between Church and State. The most odious of all Henry VIII.'s and Cromwell's commissioners in the destruction of the monasteries was Master Layton, afterwards Dean of York; his repulsive character was well set forth by Mr. Brendon Stewart.

ON Monday, June 3rd, the Irish Players from the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, open for a brief season in the Court Theatre. This year, in addition to some old favourites, they promise new plays by William Boyle, Lennox Robinson, and T. C. Murray. We are keenly interested in the new Irish drama, and these plays will be looked forward to with eagerness. The programme will begin with J. M. Synge's 'The Playboy of the Western World' and W. B. Yeats's 'Kathleen ni Houlihan.' His verse play 'The Countess Cathleen' will also be performed.

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W. B.—Many thanks.

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